



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

University Environmental Health and Safety

## APPENDIX J - Powder Actuated Tools

Powder-actuated tools are considered very dangerous, and shall only be operated by employees who have received training. Powder-actuated tools operate very much like a loaded gun and must be treated with such respect. When using powder-actuated tools, the user must:

- Wear ear, eye and face protection.
- Ensure that the muzzle protective shield is in place and centered perpendicular to and concentric with the barrel to confine any projectile fragments that could be launched when the tool is fired.
- Hold the tool in the operation position for at least 30 seconds before trying to re-fire it if misfired.
- Not use in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.
- Inspect the powder-actuated tool before using it, make sure it is clean, that all moving parts operate freely, that the barrel is free from obstruction, and that the barrel has the proper shield, guard, and attachments as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Not load the tool unless it is to be used immediately.
- Not leave a loaded tool unattended.
- Keep hand clear of the barrel end.
- Never point the tool at anyone.
- Not fire fasteners into materials that would allow the fasteners to pass through to the other side.
- Not drive fasteners into brittle materials that might chip or splatter which could cause the fastener to ricochet.
- Always use an alignment guide when shooting fasteners into existing holes.