



March 2 — Nail Gun Missing Spring

Missing spring in the nail gun which can cause it to miss fire.

Got with supervisor to replace nail gun.

A nail gun was found missing a spring, but it was still sitting in service like nothing was wrong. On the surface, it looked usable. It had air. It would probably fire.

The missing spring wasn't cosmetic it was part of the firing control system. When internal components aren't intact, the tool can double fire, misfire, or discharge unpredictably. Nail guns don't give warnings when something fails. They release energy instantly. What feels like a small missing part can turn into a nail through a hand in less than a second.

Most tool injuries don't happen because someone doesn't know better. They happen because a defect was tolerated. A small mechanical problem was accepted as "good enough."

That's where control is lost.

Hazards

- Unintentional discharge
- Double firing or bump firing
- Nail ricochet off steel or hard surfaces
- Penetrating injuries to hands or fingers
- Bystanders struck in the line of fire
- Permanent nerve or tendon damage

Stats

- Over 37,000 nail gun injuries are treated annually in U.S. emergency departments
- Approximately two-thirds of injuries involve hands and fingers
- Many nail gun injuries occur during

routine tasks

- Tool malfunction and improper maintenance are common contributing factors

Humans at Work

When we feel even a little behind, our brains shift into **speed** mode. We stop evaluating details and start focusing on getting the task done. At the same time, **familiarity** can dull our sense of risk. A nail gun is something we've used a hundred times, so it feels routine, even harmless. But urgency plus comfort is a dangerous combination. When we rush something, we think we understand, small defects get overlooked. And with stored energy tools, small defects don't stay small for long.

Pause and Think

- Have you inspected the tool before energizing it?
- Does the trigger and contact tip move freely and reset properly?
- If something looks off, are you willing to stop and tag it out?

A missing part is a missing safety control.

If it isn't mechanically complete, it isn't ready to use.

"Close enough" is not a maintenance standard.