

Safe Use of Hand Tools: Wrenches

Wrenches are one of the most common hand tools used by fire sprinkler contractors. However, improper use of wrenches can lead to injuries. Be sure to keep the following in mind when using wrenches:

- ✓ Use wrenches of the right size for the job.
- ✓ Face the jaws on an adjustable wrench in the direction of the pull.



- ✓ Never apply a wrench to moving machinery. Stop the machine, remove hazardous energy, and then remove all tools before returning it to service.
- ✓ Be sure that pipe wrench jaws are sharp so they will not slip.
- ✓ Never use any tool in such a way that you will be injured if it slips. Pre-analyze your movements and position your body accordingly.

Always remember these safe tool rules:

The construction industry calls for the use of many types of hand tools. Handle them with care and use them exactly for the purpose for which they were made.

1. Choose the right tool for the job. *Never use a makeshift tool.*
2. Use only tools in good condition. Do not use tools with cracked, broken, or missing handles. Do not use tools with mushroomed or broken heads.
3. Keep keen-edged blades sharp. Store them safely when not in use.
4. Do not use a hammer with a hardened face on a highly tempered tool such as a drill, file, or die or jig. Chips may fly.

