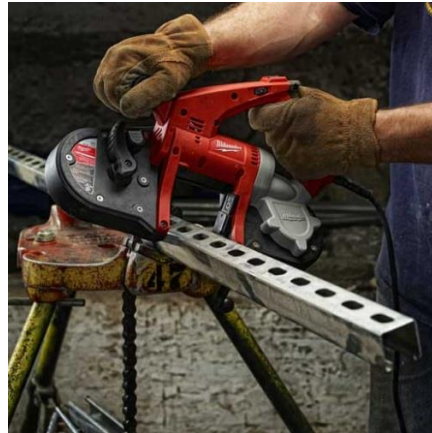
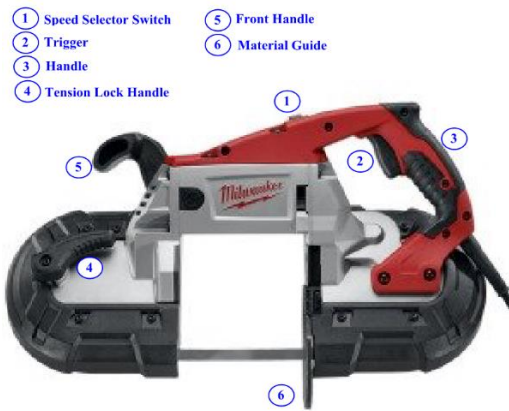


# LOSS CONTROL ALERT – Portable Band Saw



## Incident

A plumber was working on a baker scaffold cutting all-thread with a portable band saw. The all-thread was installed into the deck above and extended down to the plumber's eye level. The plumber secured the all-thread with his left hand and attempted to cut it by using the saw with his right hand. The plumber lost positive control of the portable band saw and the blade slipped down cutting into his left index finger. The plumber was wearing gloves but still suffered a ½" laceration to his index finger.

## Preventing Reoccurrence

- Employees utilizing portable band saws should *first* read the manufacturer's safety guidelines prior to use. The foreman must make sure the guidelines are followed and hazards noted in JHA/PTPs and during morning safety huddles.
- **Set up appropriate workstations to cut material. The material to be cut should be secured with a chain vice or clamp. Material should not be cut overhead, on the floor, on top of loose or stored material, or while rested on the user's body.**
- **A portable band saw is a two-hand-required tool.** Operators must keep their second hand on the front handle. If both hands are on the handles of the portable band saw, then the user's hands cannot be cut.
- **Unplug the tool before maintenance on the blade or tool.**

**Please share this alert immediately with all MEP contractors to ensure that their employees are following manufacturer's recommended guidelines for safe operation of portable band saws.**