



In 2015, table saws accounted for more than 4,000 amputations – 11 a day – and 33,400 emergency room visits.

4 out of Weigand's 30 injuries in 2020 were the result of table saw use. Two of those injuries were sustained by the material kicking back hitting the person. The other 2 injuries were from physical contact with the blade and one of those a finger was amputated.

Things you can do to prevent incidents while using a table saw:

- **Table saws should only be operated by trained personnel, if you need training, have questions, or lack the experience, please contact your supervisor, or foreman.**
- Keep the floor in front of the saw free of cut-offs and piled up sawdust.
- Wear proper eye and hearing protection.
- Remove the draw string from your hoodie and leave your dangling jewelry at home. Get rid of other loose-fitting clothing.
- Stand comfortably, with your feet far enough apart for good balance. Wear footwear with non-slip soles.
- Use a push stick to cut stock that is 6" or less in width. A hand that is not close to a blade is not going to get cut.
- Never reach behind or over the blade unless it has stopped turning. This does not mean you should stop pushing your work before it finishes passing through the blade, itself an invitation to kick back.
- When ripping stock, always anticipate the possibility of kickback. Do not stand directly in line with the blade, but off to the side of it.
- Do not make free-hand cuts on a table saw. Guide the stock through the blade using the rip fence or the miter gauge.
- If you are planning to rip long boards, get a helper to support the wood after it passes through the blade, or use an off-feed table or roller.
- Do not remove the blade guard from your saw unless absolutely necessary to make a specific cut.
- Do not rush, plan all your cuts. If you have doubts about making a cut, do not do it.

Also, to minimize the severity of lacerations, the shop has purchased multiple SawStop brand table saws that have a saw brake feature stopping the blade in less than 5 milliseconds. These should only be used for dry finish wood.

SawStop brake activated

