Berry Bros. General Contractors, Inc.
Standard Operating Procedures for Jackhammer Operations

Jackhammer Standard Operating Procedures for Pneumatic / Electrical Jackhammers

When using a jackhammer:

- Wear proper PPE: eye protection, steel-toed boots, hearing protection; and safety gloves.
- Rotate workers, whenever possible, when jackhammering for extended periods of time.
- Position the jackhammer as near as possible to the work location. Place the compressor/generator if applicable as far as possible from the work area to reduce the level of noise.
- Inspect the jackhammer and associated equipment regularly for defect or damage. Check if all components are complete, securely in place (or tightened) and in good condition. Make sure to do this, too, before every shift or start of operations.
- Check air hoses for breaks, cracks, and worn or damaged couplings.
- Ensure that the rating of the hose (if using pneumatic jackhammer) is sufficient for the job intended.
- Inspect the electrical cord for frays, wear, and other signs of damage.
- Secure hose ends to prevent whipping if an accidental cut or break occurs

- Workers must sling the electrical cord on their shoulder to prevent its accidental swerving which can cause electrocution.

- Use the proper weight of the jackhammer for the job. Use a lighter jackhammer for the job as much as possible.

- Use the proper point for the material to be broken. Remember to use rock point for rock, spade point for asphalt, and chisel point for concrete. Never use a broken or cracked point.

- Lift the jackhammer properly by using the legs. This helps you avoid back strain or injury.

- Position the bit where you wish to the start the cut, then widen your stance to an athletic position prior to pulling the trigger.

- Operate the tool at a slight angle with it leaning back towards you. This way, you prevent the point from getting stuck in the material and the tool from getting out of control.

- Check for dust when operating jackhammer – If necessary, use water suppression and/or respiratory equipment to limit exposure levels.

- Do not jackhammer down beyond the depth of the cutting bit.

- Release the operation trigger whenever lifting up on the jackhammer. If jackhammer trigger is engaged when jackhammer is not being held down with pressure, it could jump around uncontrolled and
- injure the worker.

- Shut off the air supply and relieve pressure from the supply hose, or disconnect from electrical power source before changing tool points. Do the same when leaving the jackhammer unattended.

- Immediately remove defective or malfunctioning jackhammers and other tools until they are properly repaired. When removed from service a 'lockout tagout/out of service' tag should be applied.

- Barricade the work area as much as possible to keep spectators and untrained personnel from getting exposed to the hazards of jackhammer operations.

- If the jackhammer bit "gets stuck":

    - Attempt to free the bit by moving the jackhammer back and forth from side to side.

    - If bit is still stuck, put a second bit into the jackhammer and work at stuck bit from an angle.

Operational Safety Checks – Pre Use:
1. Ensure all components, attachments and guards are secure before starting.
2. Know the best way to do the job. Review any operational procedures.
3. Be aware that this power tool is designed to create severe vibration. The hands, arms and legs will quickly tire. Take regular breaks.
4. Always use two hands. Ensure you have a firm footing and are always ready to handle any reaction the tool may make.
5. Operators should be prepared to brace themselves against the high level of torque exerted by the tool.
6. Apply slight pressure on the tool. Pressing very hard will not increase efficiency. Stop operation if the tool bounces around uncontrollably.
7. Do not touch the bit immediately after operation. It may be extremely hot.
8. Do not operate this power tool at no-load unnecessarily.
9. To Stop, release the handle grip switch. Turn off and disconnect after use.
10. Never leave this power tool unattended

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

■ Moving, rotating & sharp parts ■ Pinch & squash ■ Slips, trips & falls
■ Excessive noise ■ Dust & fumes ■ Eye injuries
■ Ejected material ■ High pressure air hose couplings ■ Manual handling – including vibration, duration & excessive force ■ Loss of control of equipment