

## DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program

### Jackhammer Safety

---

**Purpose:** Establish minimum safety rules for operating a jackhammer.

**General:** Jackhammers are designed to break concrete, asphalt, clay and rocks. They are available in either electric or pneumatic models and can range in weight from 60 to 100 lbs.



#### **Required PPE for Operators:**

- Safety goggles with or without a full face shield
- Safety shoes or boots with toe protection
- Long sleeve shirt and full length pants
- Hearing protection
- Anti-vibration Safety gloves
- Sweat head band

#### **Site & Equipment Pre-check:**

- If pneumatic place compressor as far as possible away from where jackhammer is to used to reduce the noise level
- Be sure work area is blocked off to prevent non-workers from entering work area.
- Inspect the jackhammer and other tools for defects or damage
- Be sure all components of the jackhammer are complete and securely in place
- Check air hoses for breaks, wear, cracked or damaged couplings
- Be sure the rating of the hose is sufficient for the job intended
- If electric powered check power cord for wear and damage
- If electric be sure jackhammer is properly grounded
- Use proper point for the material to be broken
- Never **use** a broken or cracked point

#### **Operating:**

- Remember to lift with your legs not your back
- If possible start at an edge and work your way into the area. If you have to start in the middle chip away small bits and then work backwards being sure to look behind you for any tripping hazards.
- Place your feet shoulder width apart and the jackhammer about 6 inches centered in front of you.
- Balance the jackhammer in your hands and apply steady pressure straight down initially to an area until it loosens and breaks. Do not apply excessive pressure as that reduces the efficiency of the jackhammer.
- Once the area has been cracked open then angle the jackhammer at about 60 degrees until the material is completely broken.
- Cut any rebar or wire with bolt cutters or an angled bit.
- Disconnect the jackhammer from its power source whenever it is necessary to leave.