

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT NAIL-GUN SAFETY



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Background Information

The information in this publication is based on NIOSH supported research; Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors (NIOSH Publication No. 2011-202/OSHA Publication No. 3459-8-11); and focus group discussions with residential building subcontractors, safety specialists and workers.

New nail gun users must receive safety training, not just a copy of this publication. Safety training requirements are described in detail in Nail Gun Safety: A Guide for Construction Contractors and can be viewed and printed or downloaded from www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-202/.

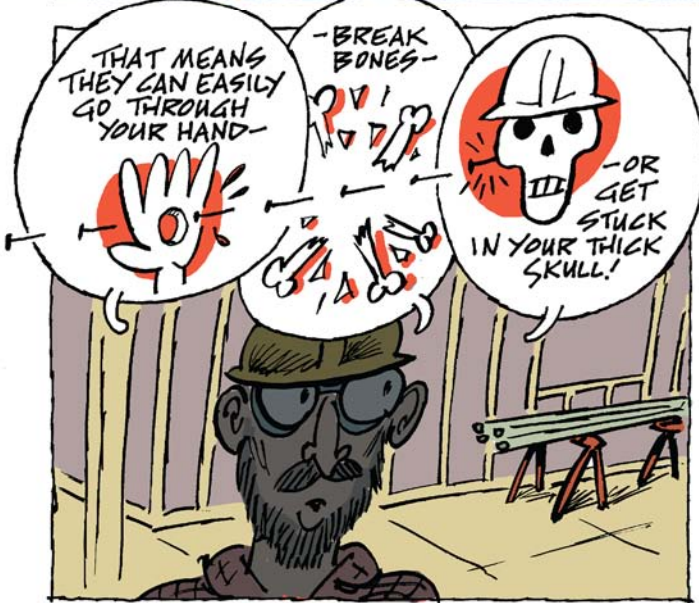
More information about OSHA power tool regulations mentioned on pages 4-5 can be found in Hand and Power Tools, OSHA Publication No. 3080 2002 (Revised) www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3080.pdf.

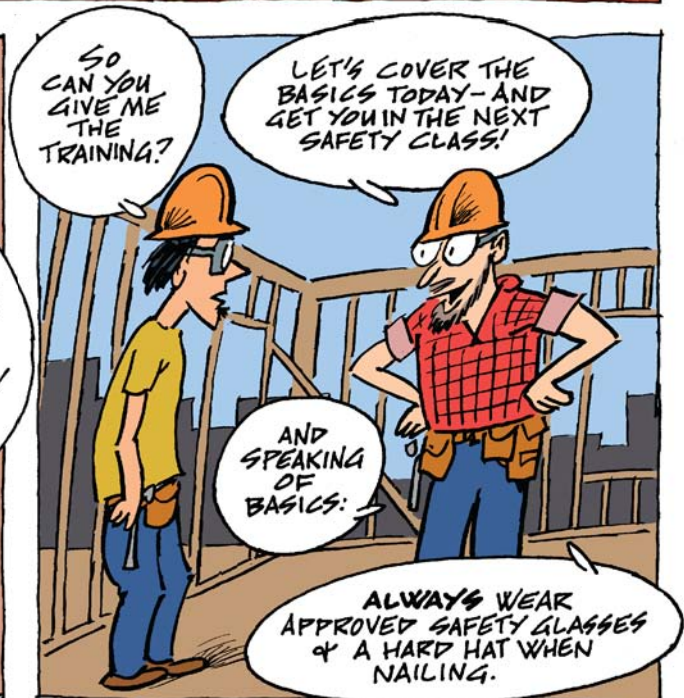
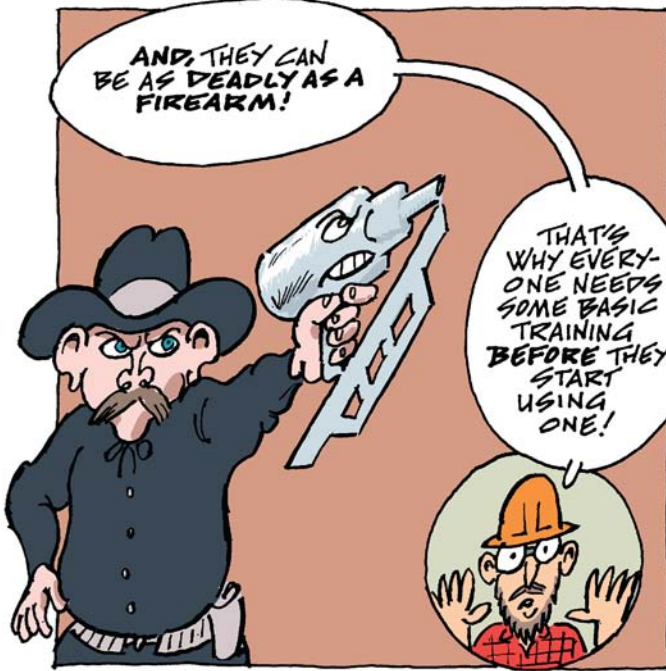
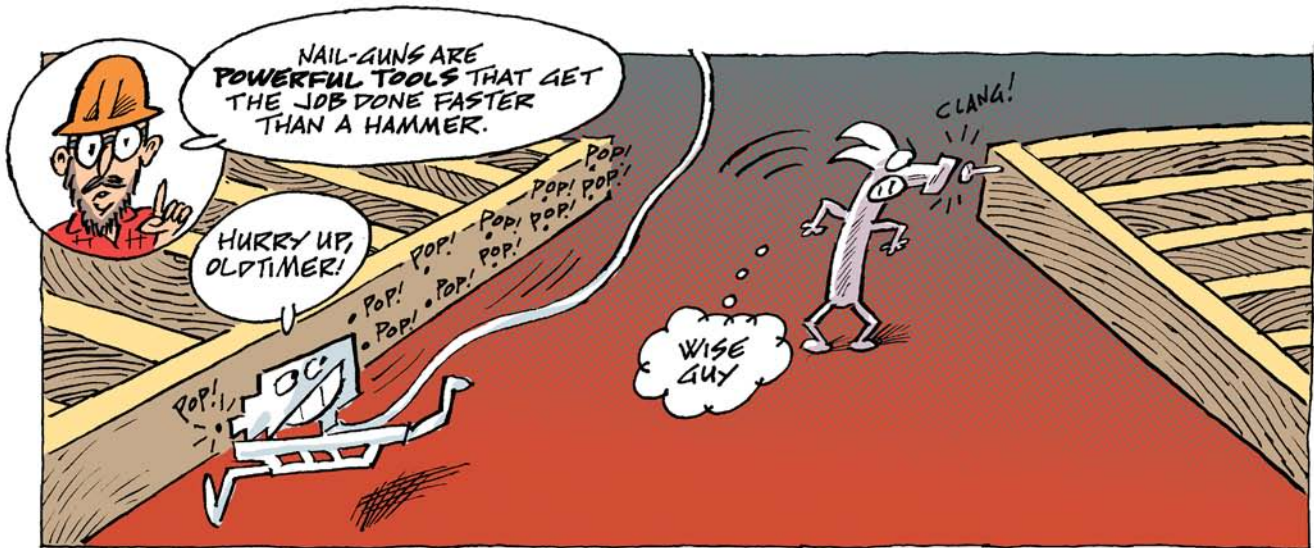
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STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT NAIL-GUN SAFETY







THEN THESE GUNS ARE REALLY SAFE, RIGHT?

NO! AND NOT ALL GUNS ARE EQUALLY SAFE.



YOU CAN SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER OF MANY GUNS BEFORE YOU PUSH IN THE SAFETY TIP—

—MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO SHOOT A NAIL BY ACCIDENT!

THESE ARE CALLED "BUMP-FIRE" OR "AUTOMATIC" NAIL-GUNS.



THE SAFER GUN FORCES YOU TO PUSH THE SAFETY TIP AGAINST THE WOOD—

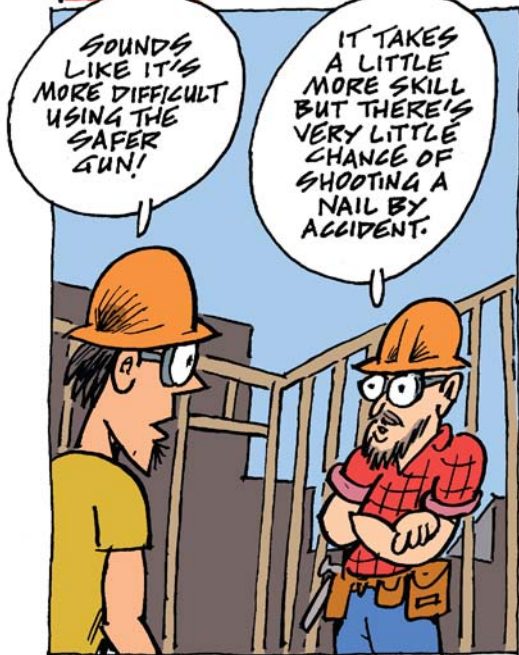


AND THEN PULL THE TRIGGER TO SHOOT ONE NAIL!

YOU REPEAT THIS FOR EACH NAIL YOU SHOOT

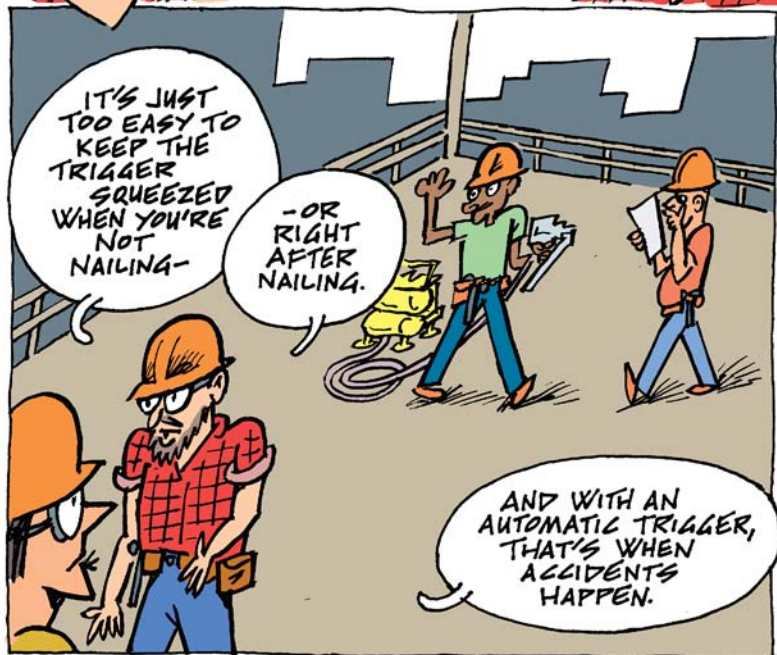


THESE SAFER GUNS ARE KNOWN AS "SINGLE-SHOT" OR "SEQUENTIAL"



SOUNDS LIKE IT'S MORE DIFFICULT USING THE SAFER GUN!

IT TAKES A LITTLE MORE SKILL BUT THERE'S VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF SHOOTING A NAIL BY ACCIDENT.



IT'S JUST TOO EASY TO KEEP THE TRIGGER SQUEEZED WHEN YOU'RE NOT NAILING—

—OR RIGHT AFTER NAILING.

AND WITH AN AUTOMATIC TRIGGER, THAT'S WHEN ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.

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NAIL GUN TRIGGER SAFETY

- Removing the safety tip spring or disabling any safety device increases the risk of injury. OSHA prohibits doing these things.
- Use the "single shot" trigger (also called full sequential trigger) when possible.
- Ask your employer for nail gun safety training if you are a new user. OSHA requires this training. Ask how the different triggers and safety devices work.
- Know what type of trigger you are using before you start working.

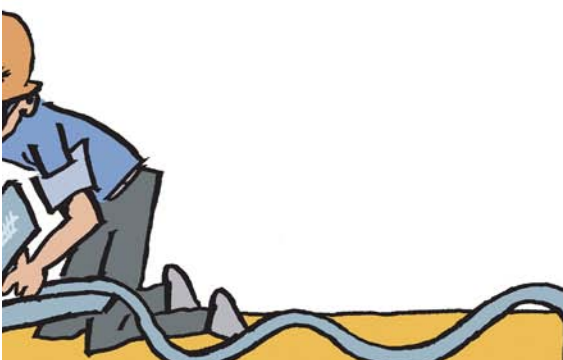


NAIL GUN USE

- Hold and carry the nail gun with your finger OFF the trigger.
- Keep co-workers out of your line of fire.
- Clear a nail jam after you disconnect the hose.
- Shoot the bottom nail first when fastening a stud to a plate.
- Know where the studs or joists are when shooting plywood or OSB.
- Keep your free hand, not holding the gun, as far from the nailing location as possible (12 inches or more is best).
- Use extra care when toe nailing, nailing in tight spaces, from a ladder, or with the gun above your head.
- Allow space for nail gun recoil ("kickback") and don't try to stop or fight this recoil.
- Use your dominant hand to operate a nail gun.

LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS

- Check lumber for knots, nails, straps, or other things that can cause a nail ricochet or deflection.
- Only use a hammer, palm nailer or *positive placement teco* nailer for fastening metal straps or other connectors.
- Use extra care with warped or twisted lumber.
- Good planning of material storage and layout can save more job time than the choice of trigger.



COMPRESSORS/ HOSES

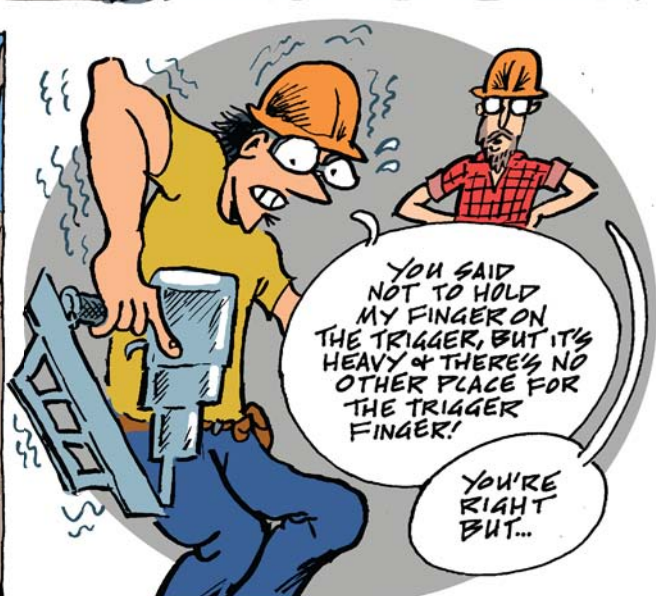
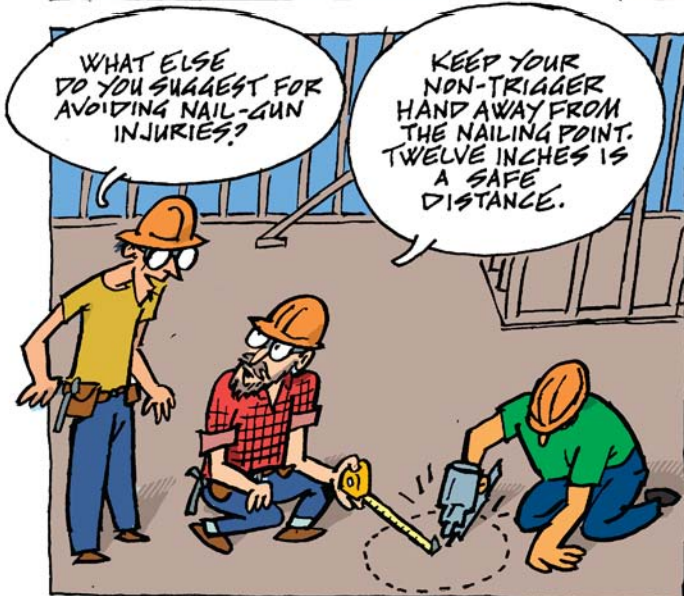
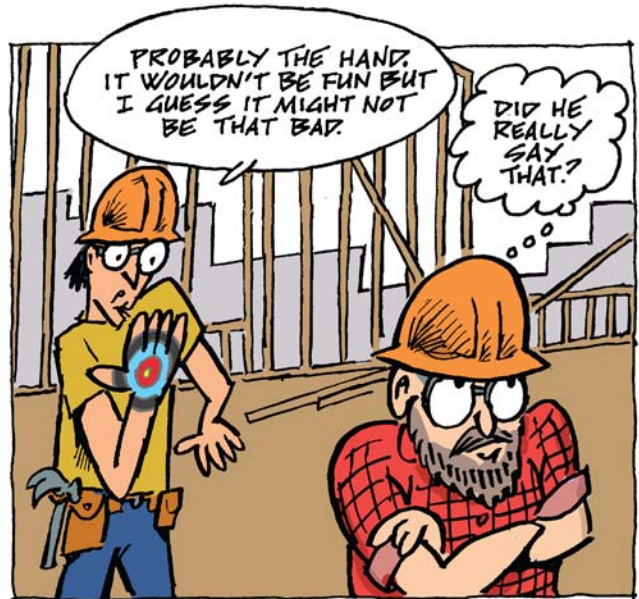
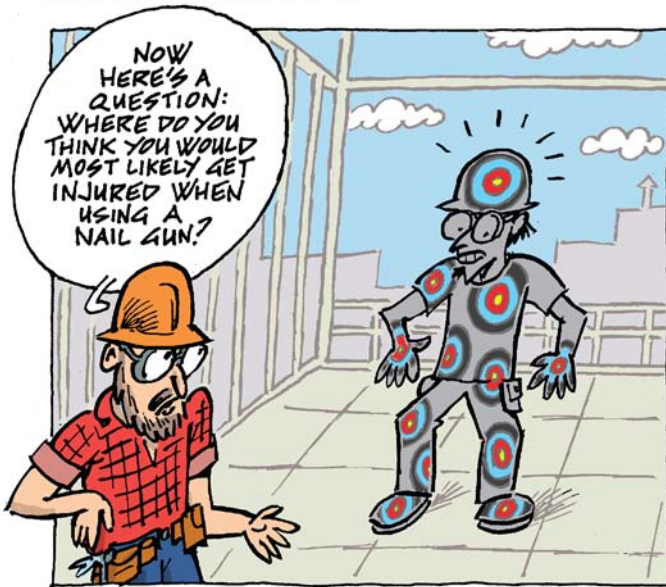
Always wear eye protection, hard hat, safety shoes, and hearing protection as required by OSHA.

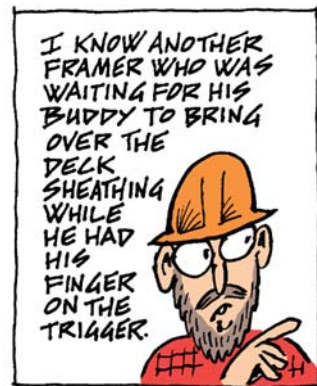
Never horseplay or fool around with nail guns.

Seek medical treatment immediately if injured with a nail gun.

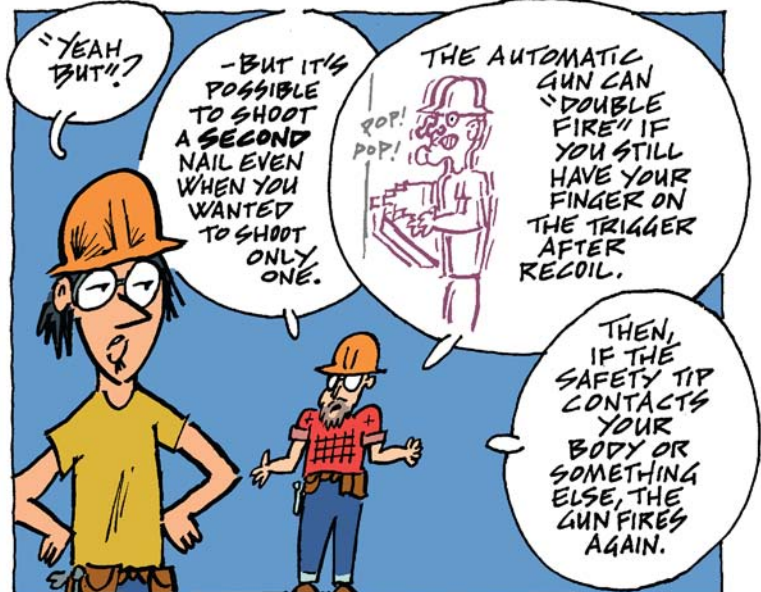
Work only as fast as you can safely control the nail gun.
Resist pressure to work faster.

- Check your nail gun, air hose, hose fittings, and compressor to make sure they work properly. Use only tools and equipment that work properly.
- Make sure your air pressure is in the recommended range, usually 80 to 120 psi.
- Nail guns should be lubricated on a regular basis.
- Don't lift, lower, or carry your nail gun by the air hose.
- Disconnect the air hose when clearing a nail jam or doing any maintenance on the nail gun.





THEY DIDN'T SEE EACH OTHER AND HIS BUDDY BACKED INTO THE GUN AND GOT SHOT IN THE SHOULDER.



A DOUBLE FIRE CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE NAILING IN A TIGHT SPACE & YOUR GUN OR ELBOW HITS THE LUMBER & BOUNCES BACK.

SOMETIMES IT HAPPENS WHEN NEW GUYS PUSH THE GUN BACK TOO HARD AFTER THE RECOIL.

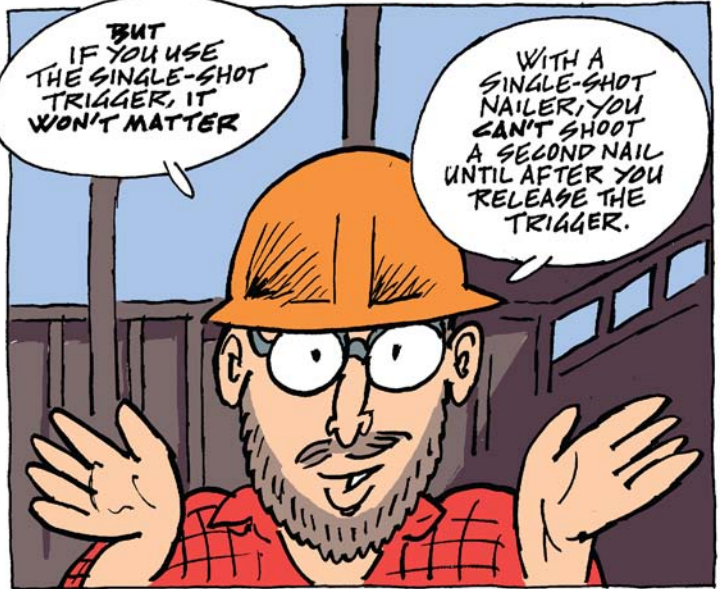


SO I HAVE TO RELEASE THE TRIGGER REALLY FAST AFTER I SHOOT EACH NAIL?

YOU MAY NOT ALWAYS HAVE TIME FOR THAT.

BUT IF YOU USE THE SINGLE-SHOT TRIGGER, IT WON'T MATTER

WITH A SINGLE-SHOT NAILER, YOU CAN'T SHOOT A SECOND NAIL UNTIL AFTER YOU RELEASE THE TRIGGER.



I GET IT. SAFETY IS SUPER IMPORTANT. IS THAT ALL?

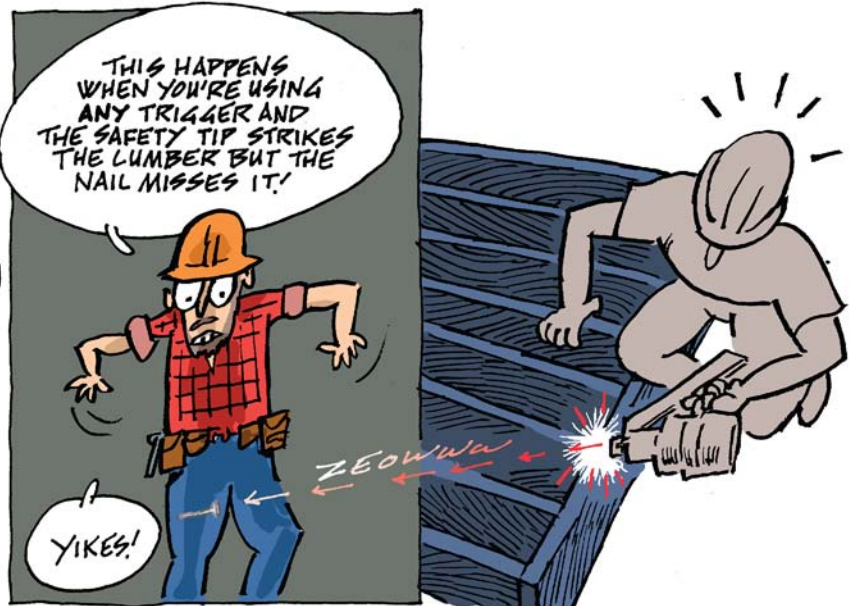
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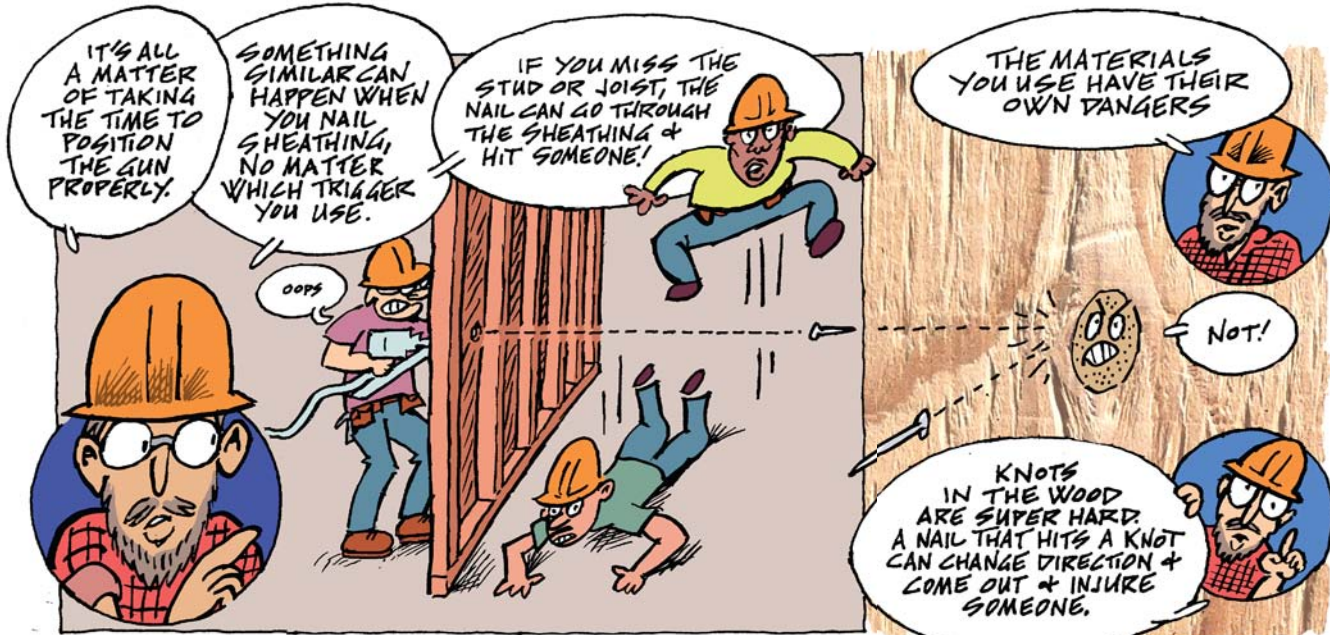
SOMETIMES NAILS START FLYING

NO WAY!

THIS HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE USING ANY TRIGGER AND THE SAFETY TIP STRIKES THE LUMBER BUT THE NAIL MISSES IT!

YIKES!





NICK THORKELOSON
DON'T FORGET TO READ THE NAIL-GUN SAFETY CHECKLIST ON PAGES 4 & 5!



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