

Metal Brake

Metal brakes must be properly used and maintained, as they have many moving parts and clamping mechanisms to be aware of. It is of vital importance that you have read and understood the owner's manual for the metal brake you are to operate. The main hazards associated with a brake are cuts, strains, and pinch points.

DO:

- Ensure that you have selected the proper PPE for the task. This may include hard hat, safety footwear, hearing protection, safety glasses, respiratory protection, and fall protection.
- Inspect the brake prior to use to ensure that all moving parts are in perfect working order.
- Operate a brake on level ground.
- Ensure that the metal brake is mounted firmly to a work surface that will not allow it to move.
- Ensure that you have chosen the correct brake for the task, as they have limitations.
- Check to make sure that all clamping mechanisms are holding tightly and evenly to prevent slips.
- Load and unload your brake with more than one person when possible — they are heavy and awkward.
- Keep all limbs and loose clothing out of the way of all clamping and bending parts.

DO NOT:

- Operate a brake that has been damaged in any way.
- Use a brake that is unsecured and will slide during operation.
- Operate a brake with potential tripping hazards in the way, as you walk side-to-side very often.
- Overextend or overreach to adjust or bend material, ensure that you keep proper body posture.
- Attempt to lift or load a brake by yourself, ask someone to help.
- Place any limbs in or close to the clamping mechanisms.