

WARNING SLEDGEHAMMER

Any piece of equipment can be dangerous if not operated properly. **YOU** are responsible for the safe operation of this equipment. The operator must carefully read and follow any warnings, safety signs and instructions provided with or located on the equipment. Do not remove, defeat, deface or render inoperable any of the safety devices or warnings on this equipment. If any safety devices or warnings have been removed, defeated, defaced, or rendered inoperable, **DO NOT USE THIS EQUIPMENT!!!**

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including Chromium from steel products, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65warnings.ca.gov

Always wear sturdy nonslip steel toed work boots, heavy work gloves, eye, hearing, and dust protection.

Using a sledgehammer is physically demanding work before you undertake such work be sure that you are physically fit and capable of completing the work safely.

Inspect the sledgehammer before beginning work and after breaks. A close inspection of the head to handle connection making sure that the head is firmly attached to the handle. If you find that the head has come loose, even slightly, stop all work, and return the sledgehammer to the rental center. A loose head could suddenly and violently be thrown from the handle, causing serious personal injury and substantial property damage.

A sledgehammer is a tool with a large, flat, metal head, attached to a long handle. The long handle combined with a heavy head allows the sledgehammer to gather momentum during a swing and apply a large force, compared to hammers designed to drive nails. This gives the sledgehammer the ability to distribute significant force over a wide area. This contrasts with other types of hammers, which concentrate force in a relatively small area.

The handle can range from 1 ft 8 in to a full 3 ft 3 in long, depending on the mass of the head. The head mass is usually 2.2 to 19.8 lb. Modern heavy duty sledgehammers come with 10-to-20-pound heads. Sledgehammers require two hands and a swinging motion involving the entire torso, in contrast to smaller hammers used for driving nails. The combination of a long swinging range, and heavy head, increases the force of the resulting impact.

Sledgehammers are often used in demolition work, for breaking through drywall or masonry walls. Sledgehammers are also used when substantial force is necessary to dislodge a trapped object (often in farming or oil field work), or for fracturing concrete. Another common use is for driving stakes and posts into the ground. They were and still are commonly used by blacksmiths to shape heavy sections of iron.

If the person receiving this handout will not be the user of the equipment, forward these instructions to the operator. If there is any doubt as to the operation or safety of the equipment, **DO NOT USE!!! CALL A TOOL SHED IMMEDIATELY!!! FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH**