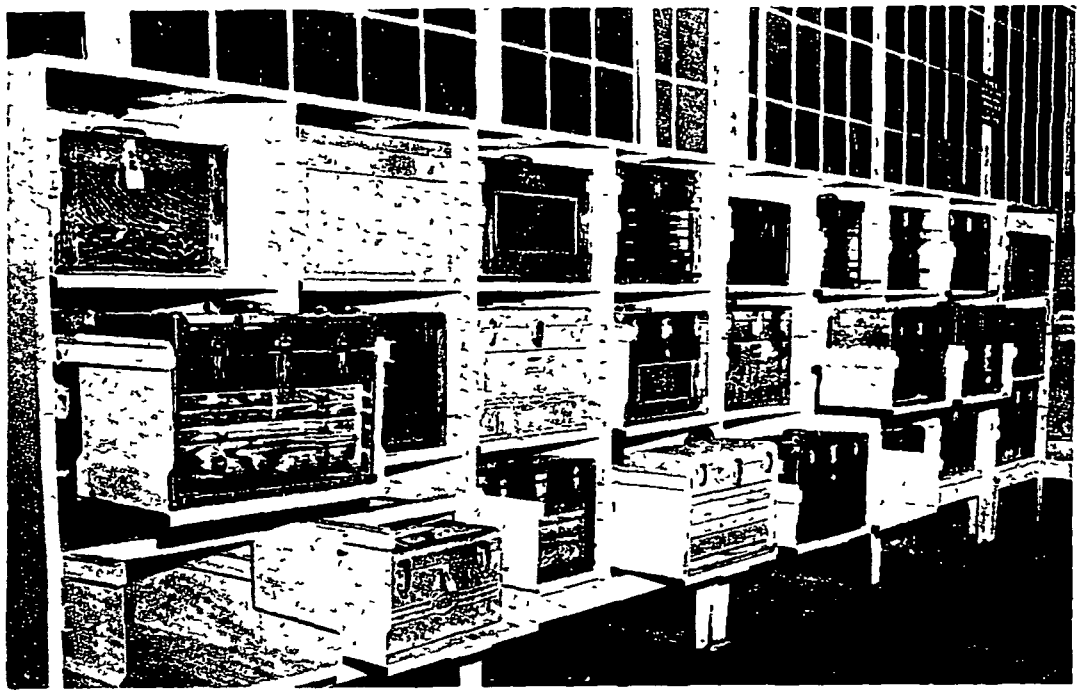


FIG 35–1 —Tool boxes containing personal tools can be neatly and safely stored in a rack like this Shelves are movable so employees can reach all sections to get their tool boxes out

Courtesy Lackawanna Plant, The Bethlehem Steel Co

Control of Tool Accidents

Because of the widespread use and abuse of hand and powered hand tools and the severity of many tool injuries, it is important that control of tool accidents be made a part of every safety program

Each year hand tools are the source of about 7 or 8 percent of all compensable injuries Disabilities resulting from misuse of tools or using defective tools include loss of eyes and vision, puncture wounds from flying chips, slivers from concussion tools, severed fingers, tendons and arteries from cutting tools, broken bones, contusions from slipping wrenches, infections from puncture wounds, and other injuries too numerous to mention

Failure to observe one or more of the following four safe practices accounts for most hand and powered hand tool accidents

I SELECT THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

Examples of unsafe practices are Striking hardened faces of hand tools together (such as using a carpenter's hammer to strike another hammer, hatchet, or metal chisel), using a file or a screw driver for a pry, a wrench for a hammer, and pliers instead of the proper wrench

II *KEEP TOOLS IN GOOD CONDITION*

Unsafe tools include wrenches with cracked or worn jaws, screw drivers with broken points, or split or broken handles, hammers with loose heads, broken or split handles, mushroomed heads on chisels (Fig 35–2), dull saws, and extension cords or electric tools with broken plugs, improper or removed grounding system, or split insulation

III USE TOOLS CORRECTLY

Screw drivers applied to objects held