



Band Saw Safety Rules

The Band Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves, resawing, and large depth cuts on thick material. To avoid accidents, the following safety rules must be observed by everyone working on the CWA or JPM Band Saws. Failure to follow the safety rules will result in a loss of shop privileges.

Start with a Risk Assessment to ensure a safe work area:

1. Follow all procedures in **CHARLOTTE WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION Shop Rules and Guidelines.**
2. Safety glasses with side shields or a face shield must be worn.
3. Hearing protection should be worn.
4. Remove loose fitting clothing and jewelry.
5. Tie back long hair.
6. The blade alignment tracking should be at the center of the wheels.
7. A two foot perimeter around the saw should be kept clear of people, debris and sawdust that impair traction or footing to avoid slips and falls.
8. Ensure that the blade guides are set correctly. Ideally this should already be properly set, but if you're changing a blade or the guides aren't set properly, you'll need to be sure that the issue is corrected before running the saw. Again, if you don't know how this is done, ask the shop foreman for help.
9. Make sure that the upper and lower wheel guard doors are closed when running.
10. **Keep the blade guard & guide no more than 1/2" above your stock.**
11. **Keep bystanders away from the area on the Operator's right of the Band Saw. Broken blades have a tendency to fly out**

of the saw from the area around the blade guides and toward the operator's right (assuming normal operator position).

Band Saw Operational Safety Rules:

1. Always keep your fingers and hands away from the path of the blade.
2. Follow the 3" rule from the blade; always keep fingers 3" from the blade. When working closer than 3" from the blade, use a push stick or push block.
3. Check the blade tension and tracking before starting. If you don't know how to do this correctly, ask the shop foreman to help you find someone who can explain the process and help you set the tracking and blade tension properly.
4. Don't cut stock that is not flat on the bottom without a jig.
5. Keep a balanced stance at the band saw.
6. Never clear small pieces while the blade is moving.
7. Never back out of a curve cut while the machine is running. If you need to back out of a cut, shut the machine off. After the blade stops, back it out of the cut.
8. To control the stock, use push sticks, feather boards, or any other safety device when cutting small or short stock.
9. Never use your thumbs to push toward the blade.
12. Use a "V" block when cutting cylindrical stock.
13. Cut at a moderate feed rate into the blade. Do not force a cut.
14. Cut relief cuts prior to cutting long or tight curves. The relief cuts will free the blade of

the tension of the tight curve and the wood will fall away.

15. The blade size will dictate the radius of the cut that can be made. If you don't know how to select the proper blade width and tooth profile for the material you're cutting and the radius of the cut, ask someone for help. The shop foreman should be able to direct you to someone who can give you good advice.
16. If a blade breaks, shut the machine off and stand clear until everything stops.
17. When changing blades for any reason, ensure that you know how to perform the entire process for this model of band saw. If you don't, learn how before proceeding. An experienced teacher can be very helpful in learning new skills. Don't hesitate to ask for help!
18. If the work is too large for one person to handle, get help holding the stock.
19. When cutting with the table at an angle, clamp a block to the table to prevent your stock from slipping off the table.
20. Always disconnect the power before changing the blade or performing any other maintenance operation.
21. Never leave the machine running unattended. Turn the power off and do not leave the machine until it comes to a complete stop.
10. Never stick an object into the blade to stop the machine quicker. Let it stop on its own.