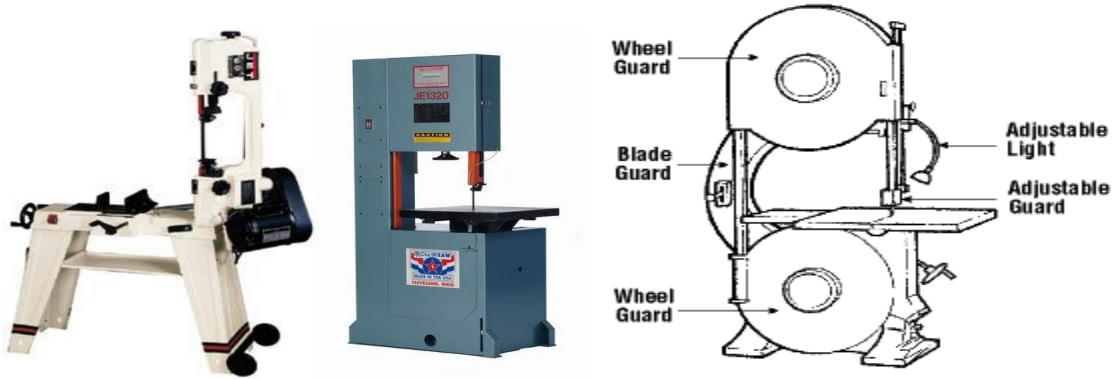## Introduction

The band saw is widely regarded as among the safest of all woodworking machinery. However, it is still a dangerous woodworking tool, one that can cause considerable injury if used improperly. The Band Saw has a thin vertical blade that allows cutting curves, re-sawing, and large depth cuts on thick material. To avoid accidents, the following operational safety rules must be observed.

Safe Use of Band Saws

- Ensure the guard doors are closed and the blade is properly adjusted prior to turning on the machine.
- Adjust the upper guard assembly to within 1/4 inch of the stock prior to starting the machine. Set the band saw at the appropriate speed for the type of stock being machined.
- Check to ensure the band saw blade is sharpened
- Check to ensure the band saw is correct for the type of stock and correct speed being used.
- Allow the saw to reach full set speed prior to cutting stock.
- Do not force stock into the saw blade. Let the speed of the blade cut stock appropriately.
- Make "release" cuts before cutting long curves.
- Plan saw cuts to avoid backing out of curves in the stock.
- Never push a piece of stock with hands in front of the saw blade. Use a push stick. Keep hands at a safe distance on either side of the stock being machined?
- Use a push stick or board to push small or irregular sized stock. Small work pieces can also be secured with a tabletop vise or clamp.
- All round stock must be secured in a tabletop vise or clamp prior to starting the cut.
- Hold the stock flat on the table prior to starting the cut.
- If the saw blade binds on a piece of stock, turn the saw off and wait until it comes to a complete stop before attempting to remove the blade from the stock.
- Do not allow large quantities of chips to accumulate around the work piece or drill press table. After stopping the machine, use a brush or rag to remove all excess chips from the drill press table and stock.