SOP – Metal Lathe Safety

Pre-Use Precautions:
• Do not use this machine unless you’re trained and qualified to use it safely.

• Inspect the metal lathe for damage, disrepair, or missing parts. Make sure all shields and guards are securely in place. If the metal lathe fails the pre-use inspection, notify the shop supervisor immediately.

Operating Precautions:
• Wear safety glasses with side protectors when using a metal lathe.

• Never wear gloves, a tie, loose clothing, a watch, rings, or jewelry when using a metal lathe. Tie long hair back or secure under a cap.

• Determine that the work piece is properly centered and securely clamped in the chuck.

• Never leave a chuck key in a chuck for any reason. The only time a key should be in a chuck is when your hands are on it to adjust the chuck.

• Keep metal lathe cutting tools sharp. Do not use damaged or broken metal lathe cutting tools.

• Center drill the work piece and use a live tail-stock for stability when the work piece is turning.

• Keep your hands and fingers away from metal lathe moving parts and cutting tools.

• Follow recommended specifications for speeds of rotation and feed and depth of cut for the metal being turned.

• Assure the adjustment for the cutting tool and tool rest is set slightly above the center of the work piece.

• Do not measure work or attempt to adjust a chuck or work piece while it is rotating.

• Start the metal lathe at a slow speed and then gradually increase the rotational speed.

• Never reach across the rotating chuck or work piece while performing filing or burnishing operations.
• Back the cutting tool away from the metal being turned and then turn off the metal lathe before adjusting or removing a work piece. Do not use your hand to brake or stop a rotating chuck.

• Clean the metal lathe work area. Use a brush, rather than your fingers or hands, to sweep up waste metal shavings and cuttings.

• Disconnect the power source before performing metal lathe maintenance.

• Do not leave lathe unattended while it is running.