Milling Machine Safety

Make sure you are wearing your safety glasses before operating the machine.

Be familiar with the machine before attempting to operate it on your own. Ask the instructor if you are unsure about what to do.

Know where the emergency off switch is located in case of an emergency.

Milling cutters can be very sharp. Do not handle them with your bare hands. Use a rag to hold them to avoid getting cut.

Newly machined parts can have very sharp edges. Handle with care.

Cutting tools need to be securely fastened in the machine spindle. If the tool comes loose it usually results in damage to the tool and workpiece. This might also shatter the cutter and send particles flying at high speed, which are very hazardous to the operator or anyone in the vicinity.

Workpieces should be tightly and securely clamped to withstand the typical high cutting forces involved in metalworking. When the workpiece comes loose it often means it is damaged beyond repair and the cutting tool is also damaged. See number 6 above.

Use correct feeds and speeds. Excessive speeds and feeds can result in broken tools.

When measuring the work make sure the spindle is turned off.

When swiveling the head on vertical milling machines to make angular cuts, care must be taken when loosening the clamping bolts depending on the model. Release the bolts but leave some drag on each one. When pressure is applied to swivel the head it should move with some resistance. Since it is very top heavy it might suddenly fall as it is swiveled without the bolts having some tension on them.

Do not drill or mill into the table, vice or other work holding devices.