Axes are made in various patterns and head configurations. The more widely used types are illustrated. Hatchets are made in an even greater variety of patterns, since specific types are intended for use by various tradesmen (carpenters, roofers, dry wall installers, rig builders, etc.). Handles may be wood, tubular or solid steel, or fiberglass. Tubular steel, solid steel and fiberglass handles are generally furnished with rubber-type grips.

**Proper Uses.** The double bit axe is usually used to fell, trim or prune trees and to split and cut wood. It is also used for notching and shaping logs and timbers. The single bit axe, in addition to the above uses, is used to drive wood stakes with the face. Hatchets are used for cutting, splitting, trimming and hewing, and driving unhardened nails and stakes with the striking face.

**Abuse/Misuse.** The cutting edges of axes and hatchets are designed for cutting wood and equally soft materials. They should **never** be struck against metal, stone or concrete. The striking faces of hatchets are properly hardened for driving common nails but should **never** be used to strike chisels, punches, star drills or other hardened metal tools, or for striking stone or concrete. Never use an axe or a hatchet as a wedge or a maul. **Never** strike with the sides, and **never** use an axe or hatchet with loose or damaged handle.

**When to Replace.** Discard any axe or hatchet if it shows dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming or excessive wear. If handle only is damaged, replace it with an equivalent new handle. Cutting edges may be redressed if properly done. See instructions in Section V.