

# SafetyAlert

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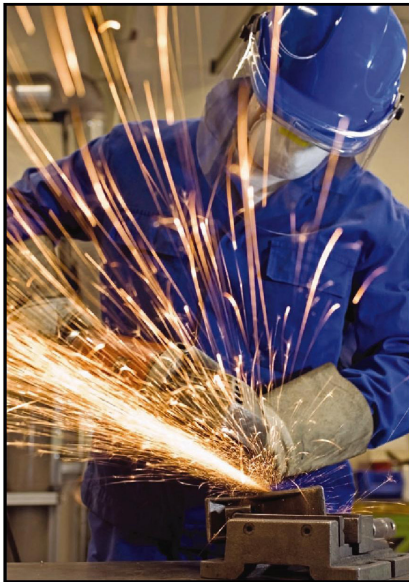
## Abrasive Wheel Grinder Safety

Abrasive wheel grinders can be found in most maintenance shops, on job sites and in manufacturing areas. Grinders can be either pedestal or bench mounted, or portable.

Injuries from grinders are typically lacerations or foreign body in nature. Lacerations typically occur when a tool or part gets caught between the wheel and the guard, causing a wheel explosion.

The pieces of the shattered wheel rotate around the flange and injure the employee in the lower legs or groin area. In the case of foreign body injuries, the material is thrown from the grinder and usually hits the employee in the face or eye.

Other less frequent incidents can include injuries from touching the wheel, or getting clothing, jewelry or hair caught in the rotating wheel.



OSHA regulations require specific guarding safety precautions for abrasive wheel grinders. These requirements address the specific hazards for this equipment.

### Abrasive Grinder Checklist:

- ☐ Do side guards cover the spindle, nut and flange and 75% of the wheel diameter?
- ☐ Is the work rest used and kept adjusted to within 1/8-inch (0.3175cm) of the wheel?
- ☐ Is the adjustable tongue guard on the top side of the grinder used and kept to within 1/4-inch (0.6350cm) of the wheel?
- ☐ Is the maximum RPM rating of each abrasive wheel compatible with the RPM rating of the grinder motor?
- ☐ Before new abrasive wheels are mounted, are they visually inspected and ring tested?
- ☐ Is cleanliness maintained around grinders?
- ☐ Are dust collectors and powered exhausts provided on grinders used in operations that produce large amounts of dust?
- ☐ Are goggles or face shields always worn when grinding?
- ☐ Are bench and pedestal grinders permanently mounted?
- ☐ Is each electrically operated grinder effectively grounded?
- ☐ Are fixed or permanently mounted grinders connected to their electrical supply system with metallic conduit or other permanent method?
- ☐ Does each grinder have an individual on/off control switch?



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