

Grinder Incidents

Another angle grinder incident at a project in east Perth has highlighted the need to assess any works involving grinders to ascertain safer work methods.

This 100mm grinder fitted with a tungsten tip steel blade caused severe facial lacerations while an attempting to cut an aluminium doorframe. The grinder jammed and kicked back into the operator's face. The consequences could have been far worse.

Grinder incidents occur frequently. In 2003 two fatalities occurred in QLD from abrasive discs disintegrating, causing fatal injuries.

Saw blades

Multi-cutters or tungsten tip blades pictured below are becoming more commonly used on angle grinders. The blades are not marked with safe rotational speeds or manufacturers instructions on the safe use of those blades and **MUST NOT BE USED.**

Abrasive discs

Abrasive discs are more commonly used in angle grinders, for cutting and grinding. The risks associated with these discs are still high and safe procedures must be established prior to works commencing.

Controls

- ◆ Employers must provide supervision instruction training and PPE
- ◆ Manufacturers instructions must be adhered to for the safe use of, selection and maintenance of power tools and abrasive wheels. Operating speeds should not be exceeded.
- ◆ Exclusion zones or safe work areas should be established to prevent injury or harm to other persons in the vicinity.
- ◆ Personnel protective equipment must be used including double eye protection, hearing protection, suitable clothing i.e. tight fitting clothing to prevent entanglement.
- ◆ Before grinding works begin your employer in conjunction with workers must assess the risks associated with the use of grinders, apply the hierarchy of controls principles and implement controls. Where possible elimination is the preferred option.



Saw blades in angle grinders must not be used

Report unsafe sites and safety procedures call 9221 1055 Text 0419812 861