

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## Injured Using Angle Grinder



The most common causes of injury to operators/those nearby result in lacerations from attachments (i.e. grinding or cutting discs) that break and become projectiles and lacerations to operators sustained by 'kickback' of the tool following the attachment grabbing or jamming.

Recently a fitter required significant internal and external stitches to a facial (cheek/mouth) wound sustained while using a grinder. As a reminder of the requirements for using such tools, the following key safety points should be re-briefed to all similar tool users:

- **Ensure** there is an absolute need to use a grinder in first instance
- **Ensure** your choice of grinder is suitable for the job required
- **Ensure** the grinder is visually checked (housing, guard, handle and cabling) before each use
- **Ensure** the disc choice is correct (type, size, rpm and condition) for the task required
- **Ensure** only persons formally trained and nominated persons change any abrasive wheel
- **Ensure** familiarity of grinder use through training, instruction, familiarity and competence
- **Ensure** additional PPE is worn – impact resistant face-shield or goggles, hearing protection and preferred use of flame resistant/retardant clothing
- **Ensure** works are planned before you start so that you are operating within the 'comfort zone' – not overstretched, above shoulders or below knees
- **Ensure** housekeeping is good before you start to remove any flammable material and underfoot conditions are level and even
- **Ensure** the tool is always trained away from bodily parts
- **Ensure** grinder is run up to operating speed prior to application
- **Ensure** secure nature of material to be ground or cut
- **Ensure** grinder is held by operator on both machine body and handle (not one handed!)
- **Ensure** excessive pressure is not applied to the disc during use
- **Ensure** the grinder is not switched off when in use unless in an emergency
- **Ensure** the used disc or material cut/ground is not touched following task – burn potentials

**As the user, always Ensure the safety of both yourself any other persons in close proximity**