

This newsletter is to inform you of recent changes & trends regarding health and safety.

The Turning Point is a monthly newsletter covering topics from various industries and sectors. The Turning Point will respond to your inquiries and inform you of current services and updates regarding

Raising the Standard Consulting Inc.



RAISING THE STANDARD CONSULTING

CONSULTANT ARTICLE FEATURE

CHAD FRENCH (SSHO)

"TWENTY YEARS OF RECOGNIZING HAZARDS THAT HAVE OFTEN GONE OVERLOOKED TO ACHIEVE MY PERSONAL OBJECTIVE OF SAFETY, WHICH IS TO KEEP EMPLOYEES FROM GETTING HURT. I HAVE PRIMARILY BEEN ON OAHU SINCE 2020 AND ENJOY SCUBA DIVING AND IDENTIFYING THE BEAUTIFUL FISH THEY HAVE HERE. ONE SON GRADUATED TEXAS A&M WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DEGREE AND THE OTHER IS A JUNIOR FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AT TX A&M."

WE ONLY KNOW WHAT WE KNOW

I was writing an article about the hazards of a cutting disc on a grinder because the majority of users (and providers of the grinder) are not aware of a particular hazard associated with it. Which made me think, that concept would be a good subject in itself. How could so many people not know of the hazard? You only know what you know. Unless you read the manual of the grinder to see its recommendation for using a cutting disc, you are not aware. Everything that seems so obvious to us now, at one time we did not know.

This is why training and reading the manuals of tools and equipment is crucial for safe work. I heard a good idea once that I incorporated by having employees read and sign the manual for a particular power tool in the tool room.

I remember years ago that an apprentice busted his tooth by pulling a hammer claw trying to remove a nail. Who would have thought you would need to train on someone to use a

hammer on a construction site? No one at that site did, but when you find out that he put himself in the line of fire and was not trained to step to the side, then you see the need. We only know what we know. Explaining things is paramount for a safe work performance.

Often overlooked Hazard of an Angle Grinder

Angle Grinders are a useful tool for fabricating metal. Many companies have recognized that the use of an angle grinder can be hazardous due to the injuries from their use. Only trained individuals who have read the manual should use them.

Grinding Wheel injuries

There are several types of accidents caused by angle grinders. One example is fire can be one from the sparks generated. Make sure one has a hot work permit and follows what it states before using a cutting disc.

Entanglement is another concern; I have been on a job that required employees to wear a high visibility reflective vest while working. A helper was grinding and the wheel sucked up the vest inside the guard. The company decided to allow workers to take the vest off while grinding in a low traffic area as a corrective action. Avoid other loose clothing as well.

Kickback is an unexpected force on the grinder that pushes it up and can be difficult to control since the user is not expecting it.

This is why we always have to make sure there is a handle on the grinder and that both hands are being used. Often when I mention the need for a handle on the grinder part, I am hit by the scenario that the user cannot reach a spot in the web of an I beam with the handle on. In this case, we can step back and assess the situation and decide whether a pencil grinder is appropriate for that task, but until then we need to keep the handle on.

The infamous "flying debris" that is listed on so many JSA' as a hazard when grinding is another potential injury. The wheel spinning can generate particles by scraping off metal when grinding small sparking fragments off to a desired shape. This is why employers want eye protection and a face shield to be used when grinding.

Contact with the disc is another big potential hazard. Angle grinders can cut through stone, concrete, metal and other strong materials, so they have no trouble cutting through one's skin, finger, or arm easily. Due to the frequency and severity of these injuries, many companies have tried to use cutting wheels as a last resort. They would rather try to use a cutting torch, or band saw to use the metal than a cutting disc due to the risk. One refinery required journeyman level craftsmen only to use the angle grinder. They also implemented administrative control of a form with the foreman and safety signing off on the form. One can reduce these hazards by effective inspection of the angle grinder.

Angle Grinder Inspection

Check the overall condition of the grinder. Remove from service if damaged or all requirements are not satisfied. The cord, battery, and side handle must be attached and in good condition. The wheel specification label must be readable. See if there is a checklist from the manufacturer of your model that has an item not listed [here](#).

Now this is the part that most users **do not KNOW!**

https://www.reddit.com/r/Tools/comments/15hn4ja/does_anyone_actually_use_type_1_guards_for_angl

Cutting wheels require Type 1 Guards. A Type 1 guard must be used with Type 1 wheels.

1910.215(c)(1)(i)(i)

Cutting-off wheels, Types 1 and 27A (see paragraphs (c)(1)(ii) and (iii) of this section).

1910.215(c)(1)(ii)

Type 1 cutting-off wheels are to be mounted between properly relieved flanges which have matching bearing surfaces. Such flanges shall be at least one-fourth the wheel diameter.

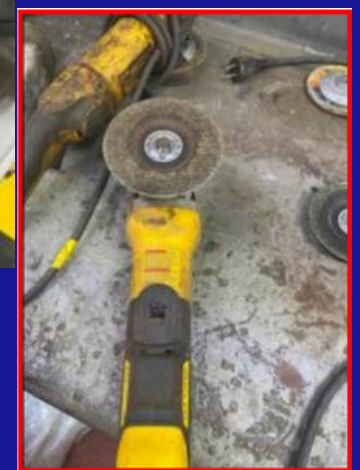
<http://www.osha.gov/lawsregs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.215>

The Guard must encapsulate the opposite side of the cutting wheel, 180 degrees across the perpendicular center line covering both sides. Type 27 grinding wheel guards which only cover one side of the wheel are not acceptable. In the event of a catastrophic wheel failure the shrapnel will be contained in the guard. This standard has greatly reduced injuries. Guard Type and Sizes Must match wheel specifications.

Type 1 Guard and disc



Type 27 Guard and disc



This grinder that I took a picture of (above) is extremely dangerous – a cutting disc, no handle on it for control, no Type 1 guard



Type 1 cutting disc, but with an open face Type 27 guard that will NOT protect one from debris if the cutting disc brakes, there is no handle in place (also not in use, but make sure it is when needed)



I observed this grinder in the same circumstance as described above, but with a crack in the cutting disc that has no guard at all – very dangerous. All items shown were corrected. I advise reading how to store discs too, from the manufacturer.

In saying you “only know what you know” I was reminded of another event that a person

at work told a group of us. He said that when he was around 19 or 20 years old, his dad asked him to go to the hardware store to purchase some wood screws. He said he went there, looked around everywhere and they did not have any. So, he went home and told his dad the same. He then told us that his dad said, “What do you mean? They were completely out of wood screws?” He told his father “Yes, they were all metal”. He said his dad just stared at him for a long time and shook his head and then he told us laughingly “I didn’t know”. Some of the crowd he told this to rolled their eyes like he was a doofus; but I always found it quite funny, because I could have seen something like that happening to myself and I appreciated his candidness for a good laugh. That story is a good example of how people only know what they know, and it is up to management to make sure employees have the information needed to perform their task.

In conclusion, cutting discs are a useful tool for the industry and can be very effective with the proper management and training. Now that you know a bit more about them, pass it on and work safe.

Sources:

<http://www.osha.gov/lawsregs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.215>

"American National Standards Institute. Safety Code for the Use, Care, and Protection of Abrasive Wheels. ANSI B7.1. Approved: December 18, 1970." Embedded sources are the source *All pictures by Chad C. French*

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EMPLOYER FINED \$75,000 FOR WORKER'S CRITICAL INJURY AT SALT MINE

The incident happened on Dec. 19, 2022, when maintenance workers and an electrician were repairing a flexible conveyor train that had partially run off its rails at 300 North Harbour Road, Goderich.

To fix the problem, the maintenance workers had to maintain power to the equipment to get it back onto the rails. The electrician left the area while this was being done. The electrician was called back after the maintenance work was completed.

After noticing that the work area was not blocked off and there were no warning signs alerting of a hazard, the electrician assumed the equipment and power were now off. The electrician stepped onto the rail to check the limit switches on the flexible conveyer train.

Not knowing that the electrician was there, a worker began moving the train.

Although alarms sounded to warn that the train was going to move, the electrician could not react quickly enough. As a result, they were critically injured.

A Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development investigation determined

that the employer failed to protect workers by not positioning warning signs and barriers around repair work that posed a danger or hazard to a worker, according to the Ontario government.

As a result, Compass Minerals "failed to ensure that the measures and procedures as prescribed by section 68 of O. Reg. 854/90 were carried out at a workplace contrary to section 25(1)(c) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act," said the provincial government.

Section 68 states:

Where a workplace, travelway, manway or other area of an underground mine is under repair or where there is a danger or hazard to a worker, (a) the workplace, travelway, manway or other area shall be closed by barricades, fencing or other suitable means; and (b) warning signs shall be posted indicating that it is under repair or indicating the nature of the danger or hazard. O. Reg. 486/99, s. 2.

Meanwhile, 25 (1) states that an employer shall ensure that, (a) the



equipment, materials and protective devices as prescribed are provided;

(b) the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition;

(b.1) any personal protective clothing and equipment that is provided, worn or used is a proper fit and is appropriate in the circumstances, having regard to all relevant factors, including such factors as may be prescribed;

(c) the measures and procedures prescribed are carried out in the workplace;

(d) the equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are used as prescribed; and

(e) a building, structure, or any part thereof, or any other part of a workplace, whether

temporary or permanent, is capable of supporting any loads that may be applied to it,

(i) as determined by the applicable design requirements established under the version of the Building Code that was in force at the time of its construction,

(ii) in accordance with such other requirements as may be prescribed, or

(iii) in accordance with good engineering practice, if subclauses (i) and (ii) do not apply. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1, s. 25 (1); 2011, c. 11, s. 9; 2024, c. 41, Sched. 3, s. 8.

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ONTARIO TO HOLD INQUEST INTO DEATH OF WORKER PINNED BY ROCK CRUSHING EQUIPMENT

The Ontario government has announced an inquest into the death of a worker who was pinned by rock crushing equipment at a construction site more than seven years ago.

Dr. Ian MacPhee, Regional Supervising Coroner for the West Region, Waterloo Office, confirmed that an inquest will be held into the death of Joseph Horn.

Horn, 57, died on Dec. 8, 2017. That day, he was using a Pioneer crusher to break down pieces of aggregate while another worker operated a loader at the company's pit in Cambridge, Ont.

The crusher received aggregate from the loader in a large steel frame called a grizzly deck. Occasionally, aggregate material has to be removed manually from the grizzly deck to prevent the machine from jamming.

As the loader approached the grizzly deck, the worker operating the loader saw that it was not closed, preventing access by the loader.

Upon investigating the delay, the loader operator found the body of Horn under the grizzly deck.

An inquest into his death is mandatory under the Coroners Act.

The inquest will examine the circumstances surrounding Horn's death. The jury may make recommendations aimed at preventing further deaths.

Employer fined \$110,000

Horn's employer Waynco had been fined \$110,000, plus a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, for the death of a worker who was struck and pinned by rock crushing equipment.

A Ministry of Labour investigation determined that the crusher had an unguarded pinch point.



The investigation also found that the lowering lever for the grizzly deck was not functioning properly and would stick in the lowered position. A prop bar, used to hold the grizzly deck up during cleaning operations, was not in place and the machine had not been de-energized.

Waynco failed as an employer to ensure that before any work was done on a machine that

it was stopped, all hydraulic, pneumatic or gravity stored energy was dissipated or contained, and that energy isolating devices were engaged, locked and tagged. This was contrary to section 185(7) of Ontario Regulation 854/90," according to the Ontario government.

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CNESST

'POORLY MANAGED' COORDINATION LED TO TRUCK DRIVER'S DEATH

A truck driver died after being pinned between his container truck and a landfill waste compactor in Quebec in mid-2024—an incident that could have been avoided with better coordination between workers, according to a report.

The fatality occurred on July 3, 2024, when the truck driver parked his vehicle at a landfill site in Brome-Missisquoi to unload waste.

The driver proceeded to the cleaning area to remove residue from the container and close its door, according to the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST), as reported by CTV News.

At that exact moment, the operator of the landfill's waste compactor backed up his vehicle, pinning the first worker between the rear bumper of the waste compactor and the rear of the truck.

The driver was transported to hospital and was pronounced dead, according to the CTV News report.

The coordination between the vehicles and

pedestrians “was poorly managed,” and that exposed the driver to the “danger of collisions,” CNESST said, according to the report.

Following the incident, CNESST has prohibited Fournisseurs d'acier et de métal du Richelieu inc. – the worker's employer – from unloading at landfill sites.

The government agency also required the company to develop and implement a plan when unloading waste.

CNESST also prohibited the landfill site – Régie intermunicipale de gestion des matières résiduelles de Brome-Missisquoi (RIGMRBM) – from doing dumping and compaction work at the same location. The site must also develop a safe work procedure for pedestrians and heavy trucks during dumping, according to the CTV News report.

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Raising The Standard



RTS Fall Protection Training

Learn about Controlled Access Zones with RTS. Controlled Access Zone training would be a sub-topic within Fall Protection, often covered alongside things like Guardrail systems, Safety net systems, Personal fall arrest systems, Safety monitoring systems and Warning lines

RTS Equipment and Site Hazard Safety Training

Learn about Caught-Between Hazards, Trenching and excavation (e.g. cave-ins), Working around heavy machinery, Unguarded moving parts on equipment, Pinch points and collapsing structures, Struck-By Hazards, Flying, falling, swinging, or rolling objects, Crane operations, Moving vehicles and equipment, Material handling activities

For more information please contact Hailey Mesner at hmesner@rtsconsulting.com

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Raising the Standard Consulting will raise the standard of EH&S in your organization through the development of new and innovative strategies and programs driven by your own individual needs.

We want to build relationships with our clients to help create lasting change in their organizations. Contact us today to build a safer tomorrow.

With Aloha,

Stanford Brown, B.Sc., CSP, CSHP, CRSP, CHSC, Senior Consultant, President & CEO