

Linishing wheel makes contact with worker

Discipline

Health & Safety Quality Environment

Incident Classification

Notifiable Incident Serious Incident Serious Near Miss

Description – What Happened?

A worker was removing rust from the corner of a steel concrete mould using a five-inch grinder and a linishing wheel.

The linishing wheel grabbed during operation, causing the grinder to flick up and make contact with the worker's left forearm, causing a laceration requiring medical treatment.



Contributing Factors

- Task planning did not consider specific hazards of using a linishing wheel near the corners of a steel mould section.
- The ergonomics of performing the task on the ground forced the worker to hold the tool in an awkward position. This exposed the worker to unnecessary hazards.
- The grinder in use had a lockable trigger – that is, a paddle switch that could be locked on. The grinder continued to operate even after it flicked out of the worker's control.
- Worker had sleeves rolled up at the time of the incident

Corrective & Preventative Actions

(including process changes)

- All grinders on site are to have non-lockable triggers
- Where possible, work should take place on trestles or work benches as opposed to on the ground.
- Reinforce the importance of wearing PPE correctly
- Better task planning to ensure correct ergonomics for tool use