THE TURNING Point

Raising The Standard RTS CONSULTING INC.

May 2025

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 KNO 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).

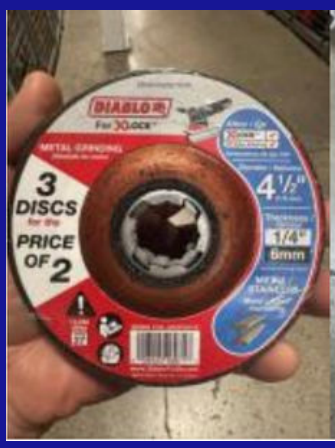
1910.215(c)(1)(ii)
Type 1 cutting-off wheels are to be mounted between properly relieved flanges which have matching bearing surfaces. Such flanges shall be at least one-fourth the wheel diameter.

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*
CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE

DEATH OF STELLANTIS ENGINE PLANT WORKER LEAVES FAMILY DEVASTATED

Ronald Adams was the planner in the family, who always had a joke at the ready. And he loved to fix things. He was good with his hands.

It's probably why he spent years as an aircraft mechanic for Northwest Airlines and later as a skilled tradesman at Dundee Engine Plant, which is part of Stellantis.

His wife, Shamenia Adams, opened a window into the Detroit man's life for a Free Press reporter this week as she coped with the grief of losing him so unexpectedly earlier this month in a workplace accident.

"We are devastated as a family. We are devastated," Shamenia Adams, 49, said Tuesday during a phone call. "His absence will leave a void that can never be filled. And his presence will be missed tremendously beyond measure."

Ronald Adams, who was known as "Ronnie," was working as a machine repairman at the engine plant when he was injured April 7.

T he Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration said he was performing maintenance tasks on a conveyor line when a motorized arm pinned him to the conveyor "causing fatal crushing injuries."

The agency is investigating the incident. It's one of seven workplace fatalities in Michigan being reviewed this year, according to Mike Krafcik, an agency spokesman.

The results of a Washtenaw County Medical Examiner's Office investigation into the death are pending.
Shamenia Adams said her husband was unresponsive when the medical team arrived at the plant, and he never regained consciousness. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office, which responded to the accident, has said he was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor and later pronounced dead. Ronald Adams was 63, not 62 as previously reported based on incorrect information provided by authorities.

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WORKER DIES IN CONSTRUCTION SITE FALL

A 34-year-old man who was working at an Edgartown construction site died Tuesday after falling at least 20 feet from scaffolding, police confirmed.

Edgartown police and fire responded to 14 Trapps Pond Road, where a residential construction project is under way, shortly before 3 p.m. Tuesday for a report of an injured worker, Edgartown police said in a statement Wednesday.

It was reported that the man, who was from the Fall River area, had fallen between 20 and 30 feet from the scaffolding at the site onto a walk-out basement egress area below, police and the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office said.

First responders provided medical care and brought the man to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after, according to the statement.

"Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family and friends of the worker," police Chief Chris Dolby said in the brief statement.

The name of the man has not been released and the contractor on the job site has not been identified. The incident remains under investigation by Edgartown police, state police, the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Police officers were at the construction site Wednesday morning.

A spokesperson for the district attorney said the death preliminarily appears to be a result of a construction-related accident.

The property on Trapps Pond Road, a small road off Beach Road, is owned by Christopher Soverns of South Windsor, Conn., according to town assessor records.

The incident marks the second fatality on a construction job site in Edgartown this year. In February, a worker fell at the Meshacket Commons affordable housing project. Jose Collaguazo Crespo, 32, of Fall River, died after falling about two stories onto a concrete basement.

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Raising The Standard

RTS CONSULTING INC.

RTS OSHA 10 Training

Learn about the "Focus Four" including caught between or struck by. OSHA requires that all employees be trained to identify potential and existing hazards in their workplace, safety rules they must comply with, and safety working practices required to perform their work. This 10 hour training course is for entry level construction workers and will provide general instruction on recognizing and preventing hazards in their work environment.

RTS Competent Person Fall Protection (8-hour)

This eight-hour Fall Protection Competent Person Safety Course will provide an understanding of fall protection with a focus on personal fall protection systems to increase worker safety while working at heights. This training will cover the requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health (HIOSH) and EM 385-1-1.

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