



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



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Finger Laceration While Grinding

A worker was performing grinding work in a confined area between a fire blanket and newly installed deck steel. After completing the grind, the worker's free hand came into contact with the grinder wheel before it had come to a complete stop. The rotating wheel cut through his glove and caused a laceration to the employee's left thumb.

Key Contributing Factors

- Tight work area limited safe body positioning.
- Free hand was positioned too close to the grinding wheel.
- Loss of focus during the task.
- Hazard controls discussed during the JSEA were not effectively executed in the field.
- Failure to maintain separation from the grinder until the wheel completely stopped rotating.

Root Cause

Inadequate control of hand and body positioning while grinding in a restricted work area, combined with failure to keep clear of the grinder wheel until it reached a complete stop.

Lessons Learned

- Always maintain two-hand control of grinders when designed for two-handed operation.
- Keep hands and body outside the cutting/grinding plane at all times.
- Allow grinding wheels to come to a complete stop before repositioning tools, material, or hands.
- Reassess body position when working in tight or restricted areas.
- Use clamps, stands, or mechanical holding devices whenever practical to keep hands away from rotating equipment

Remember

A grinding wheel remains hazardous until it completely stops rotating.

Take the extra few seconds to maintain a safe position, keep hands clear, and verify control of the work area before moving or setting down the tool.

No task is so urgent that it cannot be performed safely.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

SAFETY ALERT

