



# Safety Alert

## Disintegrating Angle Grinder Disk causes Facial Injury

### Incident

A tyre serviceman was using an angle grinder fitted with a 'cutting' (instead of a 'grinding') disk to grind off the burrs off a rim.

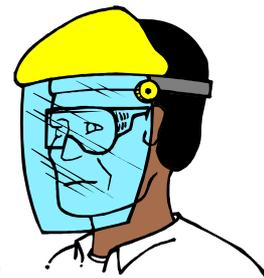
While working the rim, the 'cutting' disk disintegrated with some of the shrapnel hitting him in the face causing some bleeding.

He was wearing standard PPE i.e. safety glasses and fortunately no further injuries were sustained.

It is common knowledge that incidents like this often result in serious lacerations to hands, neck and face, and often loss of one or both eyes.

### Actions

1. Before using any grinder/buffer, always check that the correct disk for the job is fitted to the tool – i.e. a grinding disk for grinding tasks, cutting disk for cutting tasks, buffing wheel for buffing tasks.
2. Check that the speed rating of the disk/buffing wheel is compatible with the grinder speed as per manufacturer's specifications.
3. Under no circumstances is a 'cutting disk' to be used in place of a grinding disk.
4. The use of grinders to cut steel is prohibited; this type of work must be carried out by trades personnel eg boilermakers.
5. Check that the disk is properly fitted to the grinder, not damaged, chipped or too far worn for safe use, in line with manufactures recommendations.
6. Ensure that the grinder is fitted with a guard, and is serviceable.
7. PPE – always ensure you use a **full face protective shield, plus safety glasses.**
8. Bystanders should be removed from the immediate work zone so they are not showered or injured by grit.



Following the above actions should prevent a recurrence of this incident.

*"Eliminate All Unsafe Acts"*

Tilman Rasche, Manager – Global Risk & Business Improvement

30/6/06, Safety Alert 50 Use of Grinders incl disclaimer1.doc

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