

# WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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© SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 Vol. 23 No. 52 Week of 12/14/18

Company Name Superior Waterproofing Inc. Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ABRASIVE CUTTING AND GRINDING

Grinders and grinding wheels are useful and safe tools but you must remember that they are not unbreakable, and you must use them properly. Accidents involving grinding and cutting wheels can be serious. The outside edge of a three-inch wheel on a 20,000 RPM grinder is traveling at speeds in excess of 175 miles per hour. If a wheel breaks apart while traveling at that speed, serious personal injury and equipment damage can occur. Care must be taken to ensure that both the grinder and the wheels or disks are in safe operating condition.

Stationary grinders must either be heavy enough or properly mounted to a stable surface to keep the machine from tipping over and prevent excessive vibration. The wheels on these grinders must be enclosed to protect you from flying fragments if a wheel were to burst or break apart. The enclosures also reduce your exposure to sparks and debris while grinding. The exposed section of the wheel cannot exceed 90 degrees of arc. The hood enclosure should be 1/4 inch from the wheel, and it should be adjusted as the wheel wears. Tool rests should be 1/8 inch from the wheel, and they should be adjusted for wear too.

The particles created during cutting and grinding travel at amazing speeds, so eye protection is a **must** whenever you are using an abrasive cutter or grinder. In some cases a full-face shield is necessary. Depending on the type of material being cut or ground, you may also need to wear a dust mask or even a respirator. If you are not sure what PPE is needed, check with your supervisor before you start work.

When you make contact with the wheel or disk, do so gently and apply steady even pressure. Don't push so hard that the wheel or motor slows noticeably, and don't wear grooves into the surface. Only grind or cut with the surface or edge specified by the manufacturer. **Never** run a wheel or disk above the speed specified by the manufacturer. Each operator should inspect wheels for chips and cracks before use.

Although the wheels and disks used for abrasive cutting and grinding do some pretty tough work, they are not unbreakable. In fact, they are very fragile, and should be handled as if they were made of glass. Every time you mount or unmount a wheel or disk inspect it for cracks, chips, gouges, and any other damage. If it's damaged don't use it.

**Keep your work braced and your hands safe.  
Don't let a grinder turn your fingers  
into ground meat!**

### SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Safety Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed MSDS # \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Attended By \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_