

Safety First...it's the right thing to do!



June, 2013

Preventative Injury – Information to Share

Grinder Safety

On June 1st 2013 a Ref-Chem, LP welding crew was installing a new 16" propane line. The crew helper was grinding the line when he realized the guard on the grinder needed to be adjusted. He failed to follow the appropriate procedure; he adjusted the guard while the grinding wheel was slowing down and he did not unplug the grinder. His hand came in contact with the grinding wheel and it superficially cut his right thumb (went through his glove).

The following general precautions should be observed by power tool users:

- ✓ Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- ✓ Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- ✓ Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing or adjusting guards, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits and cutters.
- ✓ All observers should be kept at a safe distance away from the work area.
- ✓ Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- ✓ Avoid accidental starting. The worker should not hold a finger on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- ✓ Tools should be maintained with care. They should be kept sharp and clean for the best performance. Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- ✓ All portable electric tools that are damaged shall be removed from service and tagged "Do Not Use."

Best practices for power tool use should be addressed in safety meetings on a regular basis and reinforced throughout the day by all crew members and management personnel.

Reminder:

1. Unplug any power tools prior to any adjustments being made.
2. Rotating tools (such as grinders) need to come to a complete stop after being unplugged, before use any servicing, maintenance or adjustments are made.
3. Inspect tool prior to use, if faulty tag/out, remove from service and return to tool room.

