



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 02 – 36

## HAND GRINDER INCIDENT RESULTS IN ARM LACERATION

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was using a hand held pneumatic grinder to polish a metal table. (Photo # 1) and the grinding wheel got stuck in a joint of the table and broke off. (Photo # 2). The employee was struck in the forearm and lacerated by the broken wheel. (Photo # 3).



### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The grinder did not have a guard on it at the time of the injury and no PPE was in use.
- Upon investigation it was discovered that the grinding wheel was not the right one for the task being performed.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** To address this incident, this company did the following:

Instructed personnel to do the following:

- Ensure that the correct grinder guards and work rests are in place, used and inspected before each use. The guard for this type of grinder would have a maximum exposure angle of 180 degrees and be located between the operator and the wheel. This would deflect pieces away from the operator
- Inspect grinding wheels. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Visual inspections for cracks, chips, gouges and other damage.
  - Verifying that the rated wheel speed is greater than that of the grinder.
  - Checking that the grinding wheel hole fits the arbor correctly.
- Ensure that the grinding wheels used are the correct ones for the application.
- Require personal protective equipment when grinding. As a minimum, use safety glasses with side shields and a face shield. Use gloves only when they will not get caught in the grinder. Hearing protection and goggles could be used when the conditions warrant.

**IADC Note: See Alerts “02 – 33”, “00 – 34”, and “01 – 06”**

**The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company’s attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.**

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