

## **Safety Alert**

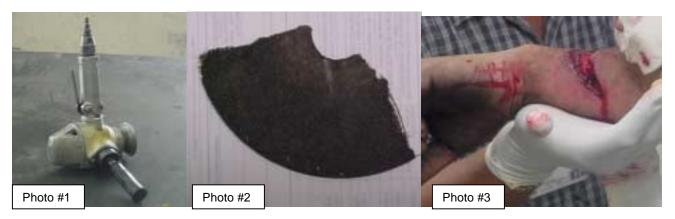
From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

**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 <u>not</u> 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.
  - o 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.