

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 94
Issued 14/10/2016

Angle Grinder Safety

Incident

This alert has been issued following an incident where a worker was injured when a 5 inch angle grinder was dropped. The unit did not have a cut-off switch (aka dead-man or paddle switch) which allowed the grinder to operate after the worker dropped it.

Pre-operational checks

- Only use grinders with a 'cut-off' or 'dead-man' switch (i.e. switch that cuts off power once finger released)
- Ensure all guards are fitted and secure
- Check condition of the wheel for cracks or chips and replace if required
- Ensure flange is fitted and locking nut is tight
- Adjust the handle to suit right or left handed operator
- Use the correct disc for material being cut
- Ensure blade is fitted correctly and locked in position
- Ensure grinder is tested and tagged
- Always remove the plug from the power point before changing discs



Operational

- Secure the work piece
- Allow the grinder to 'run up' to operating speed before applying it to the job
- Hold the grinder against the work piece with minimum pressure, so the disc does not 'grab' and cause it to kickback
- Keep the grinding disc at a 15 to 30 degree angle to the object
- When not in use, disconnect the power and place the grinder with the disc facing upwards

Potential hazards and injuries

- Burns from hot metal and sparks
- Eye injuries
- Noise, sharp edges, burrs and cuts
- Hair, clothing and hands getting caught in rotating wheel
- Wheel continues to run after switching off
- Electrocutation due to lead

What not to do

- Never cut over power leads
- Do not use faulty equipment, immediately report any unsafe equipment
- Never bump the grinder onto the object, or let the disc hit any other object while grinding
- Never put a grinder down until the disc stops rotating
- Never use a cutting disc for grinding or a grinding disc for cutting



For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- For further information please contact Brett Teasdale, Compliance Manager Hunter Valley (02) 4978 9830