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Share and Collaborate / Energy Safety Canada works collaboratively with organizations to develop Safety Alerts that improve hazard awareness and injury prevention. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the sharing of information to help companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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WORKER'S THUMB INJURED WHILE OPERATING ZIP DISK GRINDER

DESCRIPTION:

A welder's thumb was injured when the blade of zip disk grinder made contact while cutting a piece of 1/8 inch metal plate. The worker had one hand on the handle of the grinder and the other hand on the metal plate. The plate began to heat up making it warp and bind, which caused the zip disk to shift forward. The disk then contacted the back of the welder's thumb, resulting in a serious laceration.



TYPE OF ZIP DISK GRINDER THAT WAS USED

CAUSE:

- Worker's hand was in the line of fire
- The plate was not secured (e.g. in a vice)
- Grinder should have had a side handle

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The use of a straight handle-style tool is a contributing factor. The manufacturers specifications state that a side handle should be used if the grinder comes with one. The worker may have had better positioning and control of tool with a side handle.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- » The company re-enforced the importance of body positioning during job set up with all the crew members, including coaching the supervisors to take time to assess.
- » Enforce the use of both hands on the grinder when using buffing, grinding and cutting disks.
- » Worked with manufacturer to determine appropriate handle style for operations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

ACSA Cut Off Disk & Zip Disk Safety

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z_ypEfZJjo