

Safety Alert

16 January 2026

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Worker injured using grinder

A fitter was cutting a steel support when the cutting disc grabbed, causing the grinder to uncontrollably kick back and strike the fitter's left hand.

The fitter sustained an injury to his hand.

Grinders are versatile and useful tools; however, you need to consider the intricacies of using a grinder for cutting, exploring various techniques, following safety protocols, and the specific considerations for different materials.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 8 years show 17% of incidents (1,213 incidents) result in occupational injuries.

You need to ensure that:

1. The appropriate tool is used for all maintenance tasks, including cutting steel.
2. You use high-quality cutting discs that can withstand the material's hardness. Maintain a consistent cutting speed and avoid overloading the grinder.
3. You consider any movement or settlement due to the age of the plant, and if identified apply a removal method that factors that in.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.