

Angle Grinder Safety Recommendations

Grinder-related injuries, such as cuts and grinding-related material in the eyes, continue to be a cause for concern at Southern Company Generation facilities. This document is intended to provide guidance and share best practices for the use of angle grinders.



Requirements

- ☑ Conduct a thorough job Safety Briefing outlining requirements for using a grinder for metal removal or cutting.
 - ☑ Establish rules restricting the use of grinders where a band saw or other cutting tool would be the safest option.
 - ☑ Develop a written and hands-on training program and complete the training for all personnel required to work with grinders. At minimum, the training must include the following:
 - Safe use practices.
 - Use of cutting wheels and alternate options.
 - Select the right RPM wheel for the Grinder speed.
 - Inspection of wheels before use.
 - Expectation of non-locking dead man switch
 - Use of handle and two-handed operation where the manufacturer requires.
 - Metabo training video aids or other manufacture equivalents.
 - ☑ Remove from the site, electric angle grinders that do not have a braking system, slip clutch, and non-locking “dead-man” switch.
 - ☑ Verify grinder safety training completion for affected employees.
 - ☑ Select the right grinder for the task. The 4-1/2 in. and 6 in. may be convenient, but not the best choice for the task. We have smaller angle and die grinder’s available, air powered and electric.
 - ☑ Require gloves with a cut level equal to or greater than 4 for grinder use for fabrication. Welders may use gauntlet or tig gloves.
 - ☑ Wear a face shield with spoggles or safety glasses, or a welding hood with appropriate eye protection underneath for all grinding activities.
 - ☑ Utilize “one minute matters” to check all tools, PPE, proximity to other workers, and environmental concerns before grinding.
 - ☑ **Please use this communication tool** to prompt team discussions involving the safety aspects of working with grinders.
- Include the following:
- Importance of team communications
 - Dangers of grinding in close proximity to unprotected workers
 - Planning work to allow sufficient space when prepping tubes, panels, and other metal work