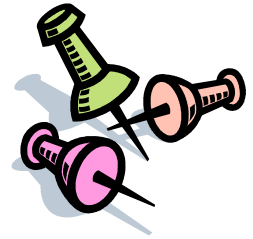




Safety Note

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



Safety Note # 15

PEDESTAL AND BENCH GRINDER SAFETY



Data available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate about 3,200 people nationwide received hospital treatment for workshop grinder, buffer, and polisher injuries during 2003. Injuries occurred to hands, fingers, and eyes and included lacerations, contusions, skin abrasions, corneal abrasions, and tissue damage caused by foreign objects becoming lodged in the eye.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the pedestal or bench grinder operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the pedestal or bench grinder for damage or disrepair. In addition, assure work rests, eye shields, and wheel, tongue, and spindle guards are in place and secured. Inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.
- If a pedestal or bench grinder fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the grinder from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear safety goggles or a face shield when using a pedestal or bench grinder.
- Never wear gloves, a tie, loose clothing, a watch, rings, or jewelry when using a pedestal or bench grinder. Tie long hair back or secure under a cap.
- Always use abrasion wheels that are rated consistent with the speed rating of the pedestal or bench grinder.
- Only dress abrasion wheels on the face with a diamond dresser.
- Never use an abrasion wheel that vibrates.
- Set the work rest no greater than 1/8 inch from the abrasion wheel.
- Never start the grinder with a workpiece against the abrasion wheel.
- Only apply the workpiece to the face of the abrasion wheel.
- Do not grind magnesium or aluminum. Fire or explosion may occur.
- Keep hands and fingers at least two inches from the rotating abrasion wheel.
- Cool the workpiece by dipping it in water. Do not apply coolant water to the abrasion wheel.
- Turn off the pedestal or bench grinder and disconnect the power source prior to making pedestal or bench grinder adjustments or repairs.
- Always clean the pedestal or bench grinder work area upon completion of the grinding task.