



May 11 — Holding the Risk

<p>Employee was holding a piece of pipe in his hand and was grinding on it. Because he said he didn't have a vise.</p>	<p>Had him use a chain vice.</p>
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He didn't have the tool he needed. No vise. No way to secure the pipe. So he made it work.

Held it in his hand. Got the grinder in position. Kept the job moving. It feels like a small adjustment. Just enough to get through the task. But that one change removed control completely.

Now one hand is holding the material. The other is controlling the grinder.

If the wheel binds, kicks, or catches — there's nowhere for that movement to go except into the hand holding the pipe. And when that happens, it's immediate. No time to react. No time to pull away.

The employee hadn't been injured. But the setup made it possible before the grinder even touched the pipe.

The job was stopped. A chain vise was brought in. The pipe was secured before work continued.

Because the goal isn't to "make it work."

It's to make it safe before it starts.

Hazards

- Grinder kickback or binding
- Loss of tool control
- Contact with rotating disc
- Hand and finger injuries
- Flying debris

Stats

- Many grinder injuries involve improper setup or unsecured materials
- Hand injuries are among the most common tool-related incidents
- Loss of control is a leading factor in grinder accidents
- Most incidents occur during routine tasks and adjustments

Words of Wisdom

- If you have to hold it, it's not secured
- "Make it work" usually means adding risk
- Control the material before you control the tool

Pause and Think

When the right tool isn't available, it's easy to adjust and keep moving.

You've done it before. It feels manageable. It seems like a quick fix.

But that's where the risk is created. Because once the tool is running, you're committed to that setup.

And if something goes wrong, there's no fixing it in the moment.

- Do I stop when I don't have the right tool?
- Am I securing materials before starting work?
- Do I ever "make it work" instead of making it safe?
- Would I correct this before the tool is turned on?