



September 30 — Keep Both Hands on the Tool

Co worker was using a grinder with one hand and holding the pipe with the other

He put the pipe in a tripod vice and used both hands on the grinder

A coworker was using a grinder to work on a piece of pipe. While operating the grinder with one hand, he was using his other hand to hold the pipe in place.

This created an unsafe working position. Holding the pipe by hand while operating the grinder leaves the employee trying to control both the material and the tool at the same time. If the grinder kicked back, caught the material, or the pipe shifted unexpectedly, the employee's hand could have been exposed directly to the grinder or other hazards.

The employee was shown a safer way to perform the task. The pipe was placed into a **tripod vise**, securing the material so the employee could use **both hands on the grinder**.

This simple change provided better control of the tool and removed the employee's hand from the immediate work area.

Secure the Material Before You Grind

When using a grinder, your attention needs to be on controlling the tool. Holding the material with your free hand may seem like the quickest way to get the job done, but it puts your hand directly in the potential line of fire.

Using a vise or other appropriate method to secure the material allows you to maintain control of the grinder with both hands.

Don't use one hand to hold the work when the other hand is holding the hazard.

Hazards

- Grinder kickback
- Hand and finger injuries
- Loss of control of the grinder
- Material shifting during grinding
- Flying sparks and debris
- Improper work positioning

Words of Wisdom

Your hands should never have to compete with the tool you're operating for the same piece of material. Secure the workpiece first, then use both hands to maintain control of the tool.

Pause and Think

- Is the material securely held before you start grinding?
- Are you trying to hold the material with one hand while operating the tool with the other?
- What could happen if the grinder kicks back?
- Can a vise or other securing method eliminate the need to hold the material?
- Do you have both hands available to properly control the grinder?

Closing Thought

Your hands should control the tool—not hold the material in its path. Take the extra moment to secure your workpiece, then use both hands to control the grinder safely.