



April 3 — Make it Work

<p>Employee removed the handle of grinder to access tight area.</p>	<p>Stopped employee from using grinder and discussed different tools to use in those situations.</p>
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An employee removed the handle from a grinder while preparing to access a tight space.

The adjustment made it easier for the tool to fit. Easier to position. But it also removed control before the work even began.

Grinders are designed to be used with two hands — one on the body, one on the handle. That handle isn't extra. It's what gives stability if the tool binds, catches, or kicks. Without it, control is reduced immediately.

The employee had not started cutting yet. And that's what made the difference.

The job was paused. The setup was corrected. A better tool option was discussed.

Because once that grinder is running without proper control, things can change fast.

This wasn't about doing the task wrong. It was about recognizing a setup that would have increased the risk before it got there.

Hazards

- Loss of tool control
- Kickback or binding
- Contact with rotating disc
- Hand and finger injuries
- Flying debris
- Line of fire exposure to mechanical energy

Stats

- Hand and tool injuries are among the most common workplace incidents
- Many grinder injuries involve **loss of control or improper setup**
- Removing safety components significantly increases risk
- Most tool-related injuries occur during routine tasks

Words of Wisdom

- If you have to change the tool to make it work, it's the wrong tool
- Control is your first line of protection
- "It worked last time" isn't a safety standard

Pause and Think

It's easy to adjust a tool before starting a task, especially when space is tight and you're trying to make something work. The job hasn't started yet, so it doesn't feel like a risk. But setup is where risk is created — or removed.

Changing a tool to make it fit may solve the immediate problem, but it introduces a bigger one: loss of control.

The good call here was stopping before the work began.

- Am I setting tools up the way they're designed to be used?
- Do I adjust tools to fit the job instead of choosing the right one?
- Do I recognize unsafe setups before starting?
- Would I stop and correct this before turning the tool on?