



July 27 — Five Seconds That Could Save Your Fingers

During a pre-use inspection, an employee found a grinder with a defective guard.	Red tagged the grinder and took it out of use
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The most dangerous tool isn't always the one that's being used...

It's the one that wasn't inspected first.

During a routine pre-use inspection, an employee discovered that a grinder had a defective guard. Although the grinder appeared ready for use, the damaged guard could no longer provide the protection it was designed for.

Instead of using the grinder "just one more time," the employee removed it from service and obtained a safe replacement before starting the task.

It's easy to overlook a quick tool inspection when the job is waiting and the tool appears to be in working order. However, grinder guards are designed to help protect the operator from wheel fragments, sparks, and accidental contact with the rotating wheel. Taking only a few moments to inspect a tool before use can prevent an injury that lasts a lifetime.

Hazards

- Flying debris
- Wheel failure
- Contact with rotating equipment
- Eye and face injuries
- Defective tools and equipment
- Failure to perform pre-use inspections

Words of Wisdom

Never assume a tool is safe because it worked yesterday. Every job deserves a fresh inspection. If a safety device is damaged or missing, remove the tool from service and get one that's safe to use.

Pause and Think

- What safety features should you inspect before using a grinder?
- Have you ever found a damaged tool during a pre-use inspection?
- Why is it tempting to use a defective tool "just one last time"?
- What should you do if the only available tool isn't safe to use?
- How can a few minutes spent inspecting equipment prevent a serious injury?

Closing Thought

A grinder can be replaced. Your eyesight, your hands, and your health cannot. Take a few moments to inspect your tools before every job—those few seconds could make all the difference.