



October 27 - Speak Up Before Someone Gets Hurt

EE was using a grinder to clean up frame of door. Had a face shield on but didn't have it down. Also holding the grinder so he was shooting sparks directly at his face.

Stopped him and told him the face shield will work a lot better if you put it down. Also explained to him that if he was to turn the grinder so he was shooting sparks down there would be less risk of getting debris in his eyes. Don't ever assume that the people you're working around understand how to do things correctly, you can definitely keep someone from injuring themselves by speaking up!

Learning: The Right PPE and the Right Technique Work Together

Grinding creates sparks and debris that can become an eye and face hazard. In this observation, the employee had a face shield available and was wearing it, but the shield was not lowered while he was grinding. At the same time, the grinder was positioned so that sparks were being directed directly toward his face.

The observation is a good reminder that having the right PPE isn't the same as using it effectively. The face shield can only provide the intended protection when it is in the proper position. How we hold and position the grinder also matters because we can often reduce the amount of debris and sparks traveling toward us by controlling their direction.

The employee was stopped and the concern was addressed before an injury occurred. He was reminded to put the face shield down and shown how changing the direction of the grinder could reduce the risk of debris reaching his eyes.

There is another important lesson in this observation: don't assume the people working around you see the same hazard you see. The person performing the task may be focused on getting the work completed and may not recognize that a small adjustment could make the job safer.

Speaking up doesn't have to be complicated or confrontational. A simple reminder can give someone an opportunity to correct the way they are performing a task before they get hurt.

We all have a role in looking out for the people working around us. If you see something that could cause an injury, say something.

Hazards

- Sparks and debris directed toward the face
- Face shield not positioned for use
- Grinding debris entering the eyes
- Incorrect direction of sparks and debris
- Failing to speak up when an unsafe condition is observed

Words of Wisdom

The best safety conversations happen before the injury. If you see someone exposed to a hazard, don't assume they have it under control speak up and help them see what you see.

Pause and Think

- Is my face and eye protection positioned correctly for the task?
- Where are sparks and debris going?
- Can I position the tool to direct debris away from myself and others?
- If I see someone working in a way that could cause an injury, will I speak up?
- Am I willing to accept a safety reminder from someone working around me?

Closing Thought

Looking out for each other isn't just about noticing hazards. It's about having the courage to speak up before a hazard becomes an injury.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something