



May 6 — It Only Works One Way

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| Angle grinder use with no face shield | Told worker to put face shield on |
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The grinder was running. Sparks were flying. Work was moving forward. Everything looked normal. Except one thing was missing. No face shield.

It's easy to rely on safety glasses. They're already on. They feel like enough. And most of the time, nothing happens. But grinders don't give you much margin.

If that wheel binds, if it kicks, if something breaks loose it doesn't travel slowly. It comes straight back, fast, and without warning. Safety glasses protect your eyes. A face shield protects everything else.

The difference isn't comfort. It's coverage. The employee hadn't been hit. Nothing had gone wrong.

But once that grinder changes direction or throws debris, there's no time to add protection. It has to be there before it starts.

This wasn't about missing PPE. It was about choosing less protection than the task required.

Hazards

- Flying debris and sparks
- Grinder kickback
- Contact with rotating disc
- Facial injuries
- Eye injuries
- Line of fire exposure to mechanical energy

Stats

- Grinder-related injuries often involve loss of control or kickback
- Face and eye injuries are among the most common tool related injuries
- Proper PPE significantly reduces severity of injury
- Many incidents occur during routine, repeated tasks

Words of Wisdom

- The right PPE depends on the task, not the habit
- Safety glasses aren't a substitute for a face shield
- Protection only works when it matches the risk

Pause and Think

It's easy to stick with what's already on. Glasses, gloves, basic gear — whatever you started the day with.

But not every task carries the same risk.

Some require more.

And the moment you decide "this is probably enough," you've already made the decision to accept what it won't protect.

- Am I choosing PPE based on the task or convenience?
- Do I ever rely on "what I already have on"?
- Do I recognize when a task requires more protection?
- Would I stop someone else before they start that tool?