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## NO SUBSTITUTION FOR TRAINING

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) say in their guidance “there is no substitute for thorough practical training in all aspects of the mounting and use of abrasive wheels”.

Here are some of the things to remember when working with abrasive wheels and cutting discs where there is potential for eye injury, entanglement and some very serious accidents should discs shatter or leave the equipment.

## PPE

Remember that safety goggles and glasses have a rating for the protection given from flying particles. Always check those instructions if possible.

If dust or smaller particles may be ejected then goggles may be more appropriate.

For some tasks, such as grinding, the addition of a face shield may be appropriate.

Always ensure that your eye protection is clean and in good condition.

## DUST

Dampen down any dust created when using discs and wear RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment). Small particles of dust and silica are significant causes of lung and breathing problems in later life.

## MANUAL HANDLING

Remember that tasks with abrasive wheels will involve some form of manual handling.

Be mindful of lifting and supporting portable machinery and careful when starting petrol driven saws and similar equipment.

## ABRASIVE WHEELS AND CUTTING DISCS

Poor practice = potential for serious injury.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Always read the information printed on the disk.

Check the max operating speed, the use by date, and for damp or contamination.

Fit discs with care and do not overtighten.

Check the equipment does not exceed the max operating speed of the disc.

Check disc alignment manually and remove all keys before use.

Spin up discs before applying to any work (outside the line of the body)

Look for excessive vibration or misalignment.

Never force a tool or apply lateral forces to a disc.

Cease work if there is excessive vibration.

Always use safety guards and never override safety features.

Inspect discs and equipment regularly.

Take care that clothing and jewellery can't become entangled.

Do not over reach and work methodically.

Always store discs appropriately, free from water or contamination.

Be aware of flammable materials when generating sparks.

Always exclude those who do not need to be nearby.

Cool all equipment before refuelling.

Use hearing protection.

Refer to the HSE website for further guidance

In particular HSG17 Safety in the use of Abrasive Wheels