

Safety Alert

Alert No.: HO106

Posting Date: 8/24/2017

Alert

On August 16th an employee was buffing a weld on a 36 inch section of pipe with a 9 inch Dewalt grinder, the employee proceeded to buff the bottom section of the weld when he heard noises coming from the head of the grinder. The employee let the trigger mechanism go and pulled the grinder away from the pipe to see what the issue was, as the employee pulled the grinder away from the pipe the buffing wheel came off of the grinder striking the pipe then bouncing back striking the employee in the arm causing a minor abrasion.

Investigation:

The investigation revealed that the locking mechanism used to change and remove different types of wheels (Buffing, Grinding, Stones etc.) had fallen out of the head of the grinder, the locking mechanism was locked in place as to remove the wheel. When the employee pulled the grinder back the button fell out, the pin inside locked causing the forward motion of the wheel to spin loose and come off the grinder.



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Actions Required Immediately

The grinder was removed from service, inspection of all grinders site wide was performed. Several grinders were removed from service which illustrated concerns of failure around the locking mechanism from wear and tear.



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