

Toolbox Talk Details

Title	C11 - Abrasive wheels
Reason	Many accidents involving abrasive wheels are caused by wheels being fitted incorrectly, using the wrong type of wheel on the material being cut and operators not being appropriately trained. Without the correct knowledge, workers are at risk and accidents will continue to happen.
Outline	This talk covers general precautions when using portable and bench-mounted abrasive wheels.

General precautions

1. The speed of the machine must not exceed the maximum permissible speed identified on the wheel. Many accidents are caused by the wheel overspeeding.
2. Do not mount an abrasive wheel unless you are authorised and trained to do so.
3. Do not exert heavy pressure on the wheel.
4. Never use the side of the wheel unless it is designed to be used in this way.
5. Respiratory protective equipment (RPE), hearing protection and high-impact eye protection must always be worn.
6. Use wet-cutting equipment or on-tool extraction to suppress or collect dust.
7. Use the correct grade of wheel for the material and task.

Safe use of portable abrasive wheels

1. Always use reinforced discs on hand-held machines.
2. Never use any equipment without a guard. Adjust the guard to expose the minimum wheel surface necessary for the operation. The machine must be isolated during this activity.
3. Be aware of other workers in your area and do not put them at risk by your actions.
4. Depending upon what is being cut, it is possible that appropriate RPE will be needed. Always refer to the risk assessment provided for the task.
5. Be aware of noise and vibration hazards and take appropriate preventative or protective actions.

Safe use of bench-mounted abrasive wheels

1. Adjust the tool rest to be as close as possible to the face of the wheel and keep the protective screen in the safety position.
2. Keep your fingers below the tool rest level.
3. Keep the face of the wheel evenly dressed and do not use the side of the wheel.
4. After fitting, run a replacement wheel for a full minute before attempting to use it. Stand clear during the test.
5. Allow the wheel to stop before leaving the machine unattended.
6. It is likely that dust extraction and RPE will be necessary, along with other items of personal protective equipment (PPE).

7. Do not wear loose clothing that could become entangled in the rotating wheel.

Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	