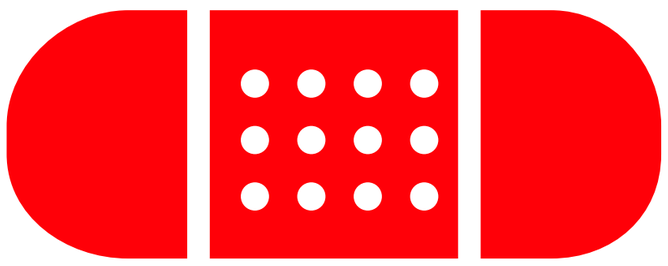
TOOLBOX TALK

NEARLY HALF

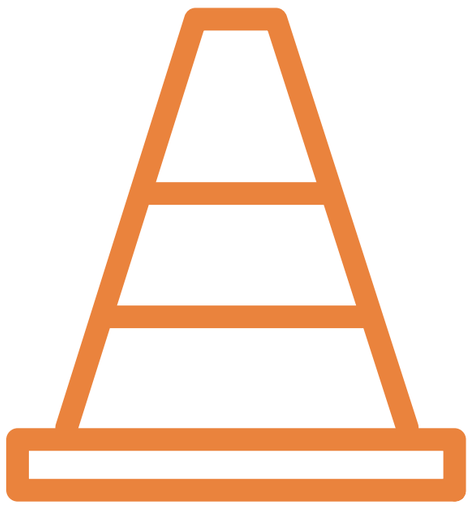
of all injuries
related to
ABRASIVE WHEELS
are due to unsafe
procedures

Many accidents involve the wrong type of abrasive wheel being fitted or machine being used by untrained operators, without the correct knowledge more accidents will continue to occur. This document will cover general precautions when using portable and bench mounted abrasive wheels.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS:



Do not mount an abrasive wheel unless you are authorized in writing & trained
Never use the side of the wheel unless it is designed to do so
Hearing & Eye protection to be worn at all times
Don't exert heavy pressure on the wheel
Where practical use wet-cutting to reduce dust.
The speed of the machine must not exceed the maximum permissible speed of the wheel. Many accidents are caused by the wheel overspeeding.



PORTABLE ABRASIVE WHEELS:

Only use reinforced discs on hand held machines
Adjust the guard to expose the minimum wheel surface
Be aware of other workers in your area and don't put them at risk by your actions;
Depending on what is being cut, it is possible that Respiratory Protective Equipment will be needed.
Be aware of noise & vibration levels - always check HAVS data.

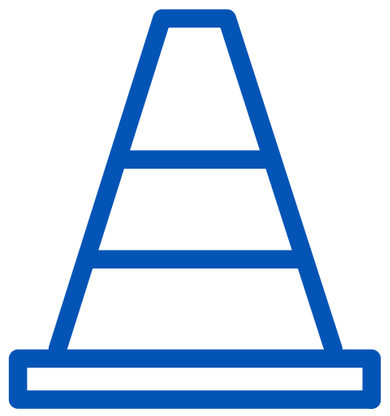
TOOLBOX TALK

SAFE USE OF BENCH MOUNTED

ABRASIVE WHEELS:

Adjust the tool rest as close as possible to the face of the wheel and keep the glass screen in the safety position.
Keep your fingers below the tool rest level
Use the correct grade of wheel for the work in hand
Keep the face of the wheel evenly dressed and don't use the side of the wheel
After fitting, run a replacement wheel for a full minute before attempting to use it & stand clear during the test
Stop the wheel when not in use.

HSE GUIDANCE:



(a) **Abrasive** means the type of abrasive used in wheel construction;

(b) **Grain/grit size** means the particle size of abrasive grains. The range is expressed by number (very coarse 4 to very fine 1200);

(c) **Grade** represents the tenacity with which the bonding material holds the abrasive grain in a wheel. Wheels are graded as 'soft' or 'hard" according to their degree of tenacity. The grade scale is expressed in letters from A (extremely soft) to Z (extremely hard);

(d) **Structure** means the level of porosity in the wheel. The higher the number, the greater the level of porosity;

(e) **Bond type** means the bonding material used in the wheel construction.

Who should mount and adjust abrasive wheels?
Which part of the wheel must not be used?
What must be worn when using abrasive wheels?
Have you fully understood the Safety Procedure?