Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths as a Result of Puncturing Aerosol Cans During Grinding Operations.

Public Employee Alert # 20
Safety Bulletin
ATTENTION: All Public Employers
March 2002

This notice is being sent as a result of the potential for accidents and fatalities involving employees who frequently perform grinding operations..

Please Ensure that this Warning and the Safe Practices below are Shared With All Operational Personnel

WARNING!
Workers risk possible injury or death when using portable operated abrasive grinders or abrasive wheel machinery in close proximity to aerosol cans in the work place.

The use of portable operated abrasive grinders or abrasive wheel machinery in close proximity to aerosol cans, or where flammable and explosive atmospheres exist, may be extremely dangerous.

Before using hand-held portable operated abrasive grinders or abrasive wheel machinery and other portable hand power tools be sure to scan the work area for obvious hazards including and not limited to aerosol cans and other flammable materials. The failure to scan the work area could result in the projectiles from the grinder or abrasive wheel to cause a puncture to the aerosol can which could cause an explosion ,serious injury and/or death of the workers in the area.

Public employers should train their employees on the following safety procedures :

- **Know the hazards associated with your work. Be sure you are fully educated on the proper use and operation of any tool before beginning a job.**
- **Always wear appropriate safety gear and protective clothing.**
- **Determine if grinding work is necessary, or can a different tool be used to reduce the risks associated with grinding?**
- **Complete a safety scan prior to beginning work.**
- **Ensure that no combustible or flammable materials are nearby that could be ignited by sparks from the grinding wheel.**
- **If combustible or flammable materials are identified, secure them in a safe location, such as a flammable container storage area or a safety cabinet. Consult CFR1910.106 "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Standard" and CFR1910.106 (d) "Container and Portable Tank Storage" for specific storage requirements.**
- **Ensure that a guard covers at least 270 degrees of the grinding wheel on bench-mounted machines.**
- **Determine if the grinder has an automatic cut-off or "dead-man" switch as part of the hand grip.**
- **Make sure all tools and equipment are properly grounded and that cords are in good condition. Double insulated tools or those with three-wire cords are essential for safety. Make sure that extension cords are large enough for the load and distance.**
- **Know where fire extinguishers are located and how to use them.**

Safe Work Practices
Save Lives

For Additional Information on Public Employee Safety and Health Contact:

Safety Issues, Record keeping and Discrimination Complaints
New Jersey Department of Labor
PEOSH Program
PO Box 386
Trenton, NJ 08625-0386
609-292-0767
800-624-1644

Health Issues
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
PEOSH Program
PO Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
609-984-1863