

# HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Golf course

Age: 61 years

Experience: 2 years

Area: Lower Mainland

## Abrasive wheel on grinder breaks, killing worker

A worker was using a hand-held 5-inch angle grinder while working on a wrought iron gate when the abrasive wheel broke and pieces flew off. One piece cut into the worker's thigh, severing a large artery. The worker collapsed from the blood loss and later died.

The accident investigation found that the abrasive wheel that broke was rated for a maximum of 6,110 rpm but the angle grinder was rated at 10,000 rpm. As well, the abrasive wheel was larger than 5 inches in diameter, preventing the installation of the guard provided with the grinder.

### Safe work practices:

- Use only abrasive wheels that match the diameter and speed (rpm) rating of the grinder.
- Before using a grinder, always make sure the guard is installed.
- Ensure that workers are adequately trained in the safe use of grinders and that they know about rpm limitations.
- Always wear adequate eye and face protection when using a grinder. Hearing protection and flame-resistant clothing must also be worn.

