

Talking Points: Grinding Discs

FOR USE DURING ONBOARD SAFETY MEETINGS



QUESTIONS

- Q What is shown in the picture?
- Q What injuries may be caused by the failure of this piece of equipment?
- Q What are the main causes of this type of failure?
- Q What steps can we take in order to protect ourselves from this hazard?
- Q What does it say in our onboard risk assessment concerning the use of this equipment?

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ANSWERS

Q What is shown in the picture?

A A shattered grinding wheel cutting disc.

Q What injuries may be caused by the failure of this piece of equipment?

A Injuries can be serious and even fatal. Fragments of the shattered cutting disc will fly towards the operator at high speed. Injuries to the face and eyes are most common.

Q What are the main causes of this type of failure?

A Discs shatter for different reasons including, but not limited to, the following: -

- Using a damaged grinding wheel
- Using the wrong type of disc for the job
- A mismatch between disc speed and machine speed
- Poorly maintained machines or poorly fitted discs
- Lack of operator training
- Careless operation

Q What steps can we take in order to protect ourselves from this hazard?

- A**
- Only use good quality discs suitable for the job in hand
 - Never operate the machine without the guard in place
 - Always wear appropriate PPE
 - Training of personnel in proper use of the machinery
 - Grinding discs and wheels should be well maintained

Q What does it say in our risk assessment concerning this equipment?

A Please review your onboard procedures for grinding machines and power tools.