

# Angle grinder fatality

**1 August 2022**

A 64-year-old male was fatally injured while operating a nine inch angle grinder at a residential construction site in Ermington. The angle grinder was being used to cut a brick pier.



*The angle grinder involved in the incident*

## Safety information

The increased power and size of nine inch (230 mm) angle grinders makes the grinder more difficult to manoeuvre and can cause severe kickback.

Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with operating angle grinders.

### Always:

- plan the work to eliminate or minimise risk to health and safety
- ensure a [SafeWork Method Statement](#) is developed, and followed for high risk construction work

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing and the findings are not yet confirmed. SafeWork NSW has commenced an investigation in response to the incident to determine its cause and circumstances. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.

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12/09/2022

- conduct a risk assessment to identify alternative methods and tools prior to selecting a nine inch (230 mm) angle grinder
- carry out a visual inspection of the angle grinder before use, ensure damaged discs are thrown out and not re-used
- use the angle grinder with the correct guard supplied by the manufacturer
- ensure the handle is inserted on the side of the unit that gives the best grip for the work activity
- only use an angle grinder if you have been trained, your employer authorises you to operate it and you follow your employer's Safe Operating Procedures
- only use approved and appropriate safety controls in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations if operating an angle grinder on materials likely to generate hazardous dust
- ensure the angle grinder is maintained and repaired according to the manufacturer's specifications
- ensure the angle grinder has been inspected and tested for electrical faults by a competent person
- wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as safety glasses and earmuffs.

### Related guidance material

- [Managing the risks of plant in the workplace – Code of Practice](#)
- [Construction work – Code of Practice](#)
- [Guards and disks on angle grinders safety alert](#)
- [Pocket guide to construction safety](#)

### Further information

- [Traumatic event management plan](#)
- [Mental health at work](#)
- [Speak Up Save Lives App](#)
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