



SAFETY ALERT!

19 January 2026



Impact Injury

WHAT HAPPENED?

A worker sustained a laceration and a fracture to their thumb while cleaning earth plates on a tower while using a portable, battery-powered grinder fitted with a wire wheel attachment.

During the task, they disconnected the tool tether from their harness as the tool was running. As a result, the tether and attached carabiner contacted the rotating grinder wheel. The carabiner was propelled at high speed and struck the Tower Structure Maintainer's thumb, causing the laceration and a fracture.

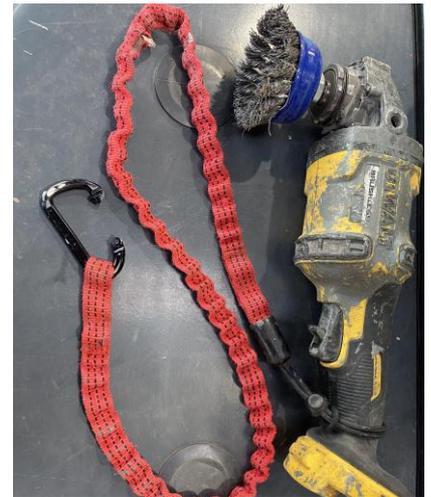


Fig 1: Grinder with attached tool lanyard and carabiner

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

The worker received first aid on the site and then was taken to Hospital where they received two stitches and a fracture to their right-hand thumb was confirmed.

ROOT CAUSE

The investigation concluded that the worker did not follow the procedure which is to tether all tools when working aloft. The basic cause is the repositioning of the tool while running and rotating, causing it to catch on the carabiner.

LEARNINGS

- Verify that all portable equipment is securely tethered prior to use.
- Ensure work positioning on the tower allows controlled movement when operating portable equipment.
- Confirm that the tool tether carabiner is securely attached to the worker's harness or an approved tower attachment point before commencing work.
- Clear instructions for the use of portable equipment during the daily toolbox meetings and risk

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