

SAFETY NOTES

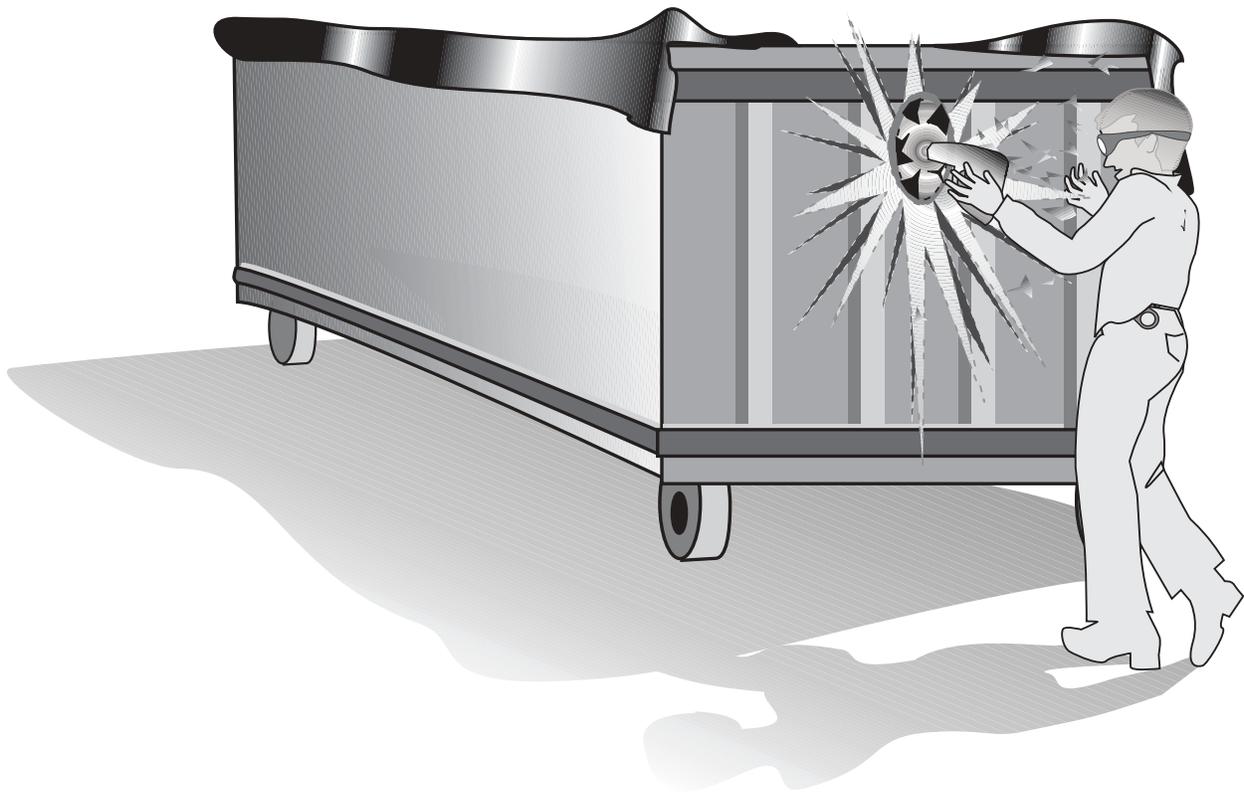
Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97310

Accident Report

Accident type Struck by
Industry Vehicle Fleet Maintenance
Employee job title Maintenance Worker

Description of accident

The employee was preparing to weld a handle on a garbage dumpster by preparing the metal area with a hand-held pneumatic sander fitted with a five-inch grinding wheel. When the grinding wheel came into contact with metal, the grinding wheel exploded, striking the employee in the face with shrapnel. The employee was transported to hospital with serious injuries.



Investigation findings

The grinding wheel supplied by the employer was not designed for use in a hand-held device or a device that did not use appropriate safety guards to protect the operator from flying debris. The employer had not conducted an assessment to determine if PPE was necessary to guard against hazards. The investigation also determined the employer did not maintain written records of safety-committee meetings as required by OAR 437-001-0765.

Applicable standards

1910.243-(c)-(1)
1910.132-(d)-(1)
OAR 437-01-0765 6-(b)-(A)

IMPORTANT: Many serious – even fatal – accidents involving grinders occur every year in the United States. Employers must pay attention to the safety warnings on grinding wheels and be sure grinding wheels are used on the proper tools with appropriate guarding.