



CASE II

A freight handler attempted to sharpen the point of a bale hook on a grinding wheel. The foreman of the department saw him, but assumed that “anybody can use a little bench grinder.” The freight handler caught the point of his hook between the tool rest and the wheel. The wheel broke and a large piece of it struck him in the face. He was permanently disabled by the injury.

What could have been done to prevent this incident or similar future incidents?

Guide and Background Information for Case II

Explain to the group, if asked, that this bench grinder was properly guarded and mounted. Also, the wheel was properly tested before mounting.

Following are other pertinent facts:

- The tool rest was properly set $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the wheel.
- Eye protection was available, but obviously not used (goggles).
- The eye shield was evidently not in place.
- There was no regulation regarding unauthorized use of equipment.
- The freight handler was not from this foreman’s department.
- A grinding wheel of this type is proper for sharpening bale hooks.

Possible Solutions for Case II

1. It should be obvious to the group that the primary cause of this incident was one or more unsafe procedures. The foreman made a mistake by “assuming” the freight handler knew how to use a bench grinder. The freight handler committed several unsafe procedures. First, he did not use the eye protection that was available. Second, he must have put the hook in a position that let the point slip between the tool rest and the wheel.
2. While you may get such comments from the group as “fire the foreman,” the solution should focus on a rigidly enforced rule, “No Unauthorized Use of Equipment.”
3. The following procedures can also be set up:
 - a. a policy regarding the sharpening of tools, such as returning tools to the tool crib for sharpening or replacement
 - b. a program of training if the freight handlers are to do the sharpening
 - c. a lockout device interlocked with the starting switch to prevent the wheel from operating when the eye shield is not in the proper position



Summary

Point out to the group that the two cases, Case I and Case II, bring out the importance of unsafe conditions and unsafe procedures as the causes of incidents. Stress the importance of searching for all possible causes.

Point out that in Case II there were a number of places where the incident prevention program needed tightening in order to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Emphasize the importance of checking procedures and conditions in advance to prevent incidents of this type. Mention the importance of a job safety analysis as a tool for preventing incidents.