



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Engineering and Support Center,  
Huntsville

## Safety Office

# Mishap Lessons Learned



**Subject:** Laceration on Back of Hand

**Event:** Employee was utilizing a DeWalt heavy-duty grinder (see picture below) equipped with a wire brush to prepare for repairs on crack and expansion joints in a concrete containment. Employee was holding the grinder with the right hand when the grinder jumped from the expansion joint and hit the back of his left hand and lacerated it. Employee was taken to a clinic and received 12 stitches before returning to work.



**Direct Cause:** Employee did not follow power tool manufactures requirements; one hand on the grinder (the manufacturer requires two hands).

**Indirect Cause:** The side handle was missing from the grinder (required by manufacturer) and the employee was not wearing proper PPE (leather gloves) as required by the AHA.

**Lessons Learned:** The manufacturer's instruction manual and all applicable AHAs should be reviewed prior to all work. All workers should follow requirements spelled out in the manuals and AHAs.

**Recommendations:** Read manufactures requirements prior to use of power tools and follow the requirements and recommendations. Review the Activity Hazard Analysis prior to starting a task and ensure all controls are adhered to. Leather gloves required by the AHA were not used. Use of the gloves could have lessened the severity of the injury.