Stump Grinder Safety

TRADE: LANDSCAPING & GROUNDS	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE
Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Use this leader guide before stump grinder safety work to review the real setup, the controls that need to be in place, and the conditions that should stop the task. Most tool injuries happen at the point where the tool meets the material: hands are too close, the workpiece moves, the guard is defeated, the accessory is wrong or stored energy is released during a jam or adjustment. Set the work up so control does not depend on reflexes.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS
During Stump Grinder Safety, the cutter area exposes a buried object, wire, rock or material that was not visible during setup. The wheel has not hit it yet. What must be shut down, cleared and verified before grinding continues?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Inspect the exact tool, guard, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord/hose and handle before use.
- Secure/support the workpiece and clear the cutting, kickback, firing and pinch path.
- Set up power/air isolation so jams and adjustments can be handled without exposure.
- Locate underground utilities and hidden objects before grinding and clear rocks, wire and debris from the work area.
- Set the machine on stable ground and keep people outside the discharge and cutter-wheel zone.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Locate underground utilities and hidden objects before grinding and clear rocks, wire and debris from the work area.
- Set the machine on stable ground and keep people outside the discharge and cutter-wheel zone.
- Use guards/shields and eye/face/hearing protection for high-velocity chips and noise.
- Shut down, isolate and wait for the cutter wheel to stop before clearing debris or making adjustments.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Using a tool with a defeated guard, wrong accessory or damaged safety feature because it still runs.
- Holding the work by hand where a clamp/support would keep hands out of the hazard path.
- Clearing a jam or changing an accessory before energy is isolated.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- A guard, handle, trigger, blade/bit/accessory, cord, hose or safety device is damaged, missing or modified.
- The workpiece cannot be secured or the operator cannot keep hands/body out of the cutting, firing, kickback or pinch path.
- A jam, adjustment or maintenance task would require reaching into the hazard without isolating energy.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. Are the cutter wheel, teeth, guards and shields in serviceable condition, and is the operator using the controls from the intended position?
2. What rocks, wire, buried utilities, debris or bystanders are inside the cutter/discharge area?
3. How are we controlling slope, machine movement and the exclusion zone while the wheel is engaged?
4. What shutdown and energy-isolation step is required before clearing debris, checking teeth or reaching near the cutter wheel?
5. What must be shut down, cleared and verified before grinding continues?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB
Hold the tool (de-energized) and identify the guard, hazard path, workpiece support and isolation point.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW
Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.300 - Tools and Equipment

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Stump Grinder Safety

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.