

Hand Tools: Power vs Manual – Safe Use, PPE and Maintenance Picture This



This image shows a worker on a small construction site cutting rebar with an angle grinder. The job is quick, the tool is familiar, the cut is supposed to take ten seconds. The wheel guard has been removed because it kept catching on the work. Safety glasses are pushed up on the hard hat – they fog up in the heat. The extension cord runs through a shallow puddle to a drop reel near the trailer, no GFCI in line. The disc bites into the rebar, binds for a fraction of a second, and the wheel snaps. Fragments fly at face height. The grinder kicks toward the worker's thigh. There is no guard to deflect it. There are no glasses on his eyes. There is no GFCI on the cord.

Power tools do not announce themselves. The wheel does not warn you it is about to fail, the rebar does not yield to a dull disc, and the tool does not stop being dangerous just because the cut is small. One worker in a hurry, one missing guard, one second of stored energy releasing – and a routine cut becomes

a fatality investigation. Inspect the tool before every use. Keep guards in place, glasses on your eyes, and the right blade or wheel for the job. Use GFCI protection on every cord. Treat every power tool as if it is one fault away from striking you – because it is. The grinder does not forgive complacency.