"Operational Alert" is developed to inform Members of a serious incident reported by other Members that resulted in a permanent disability or death in our industry. If you have similar operations, please share this Safety Alert with your operation managers, crew supervisors, equipment operators, and all other employees. It is imperative management at all levels review their operations for similar hazardous conditions or acts.

**Vertical Sander - Finger Avulsion**

**Summary**

Employee deburring a small piece of steel (clip) using a vertical disc sander. The clip tilted into the opening between the disc and table. Finger tip of the glove caught between the piece and disc.

**Setting**

- Opening between the table and disc was not adjusted to 1/8”.
- No tool (pliers) were used to hold the small piece during grinding.
- Disc sanding shield was not adjusted to create a barrier between the operator and the non working portion of disc and hand.

**Considerations**

- Inventory active vertical disc sanders.
- Inspect for opening adjustments.
- Inspect for disc sanding shield.
- Review risk assessment and Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for this task.

**Examples of Disc Sander Shields.**

- Clip employee was holding with gloves and no pliers while sanding.
- Table opening between the sanding disc was greater than 1/8” at time of incident.
- General reenactment with machine locked out. Non working portion of disc guard was not adjusted.