



Chicago Woodturners

ChicagoWoodturners.com

A local chapter of the American Associations of Woodturners



FEBRUARY 2020 SAFETY PRESENTATION

SMALL, EFFECTIVE BUT SO, SO DANGEROUS!

Recently I found myself watching a video of a woodworker who was injured using a "chain saw type" carving adaptor in his mini grinder. It showed one bandaged hand which indicated damages to several fingers.

The presentation proceeded to list all the safety precautions taken using the tool. I don't know if this accident could have been prevented or if all the details were accurate, regardless, remembering my experience with a similar carver wheel I wanted to find out if other injuries had been reported.

Low and behold the search brought up an accident with horrific injuries that happened in 2011 to Dennis Doebler a woodturner in Virginia. The South Puget Sound Woodturner Club, an AAW chapter, has a posting on his accident.

If you are not too squeamish look it up, you'll see a scar that goes from his chin all the way up to his right ear, his surgeon stopped counting stitches when he got to a hundred. In addition, he also had equally serious injuries to several fingers of his right hand.

THE VISUAL IMAGE WILL DRIVE THIS POINT HOME MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN ANY WARNING I CAN GIVE, regarding how dangerous this tool can be.

Additional data can be gathered by reading a carver's blog where even professional carvers have serious concerns.

In my previous life I did industrial welding and fabrication and the Mimi Grinder is the tool of choice, it is used for everything except to slice bread.

So, it was natural when I started doing some carving to go along with my woodturning I equipped my mini grinder with one of these wheels and tried it out. I had the guard on as well as the side handle.

I remember well that it took all of 5 minutes to develop the opinion that this,

WAS AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN ANY SECOND NOW.

I took the wheel off and tossed in my possible recycle box and proceeded to find other safer solutions for my carving needs.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU DO THE SAME!

Happy Turning, your safety officer Frank Pagura.