



## MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

**SAFETY  
IS A  
VALUE!**

### Hand Tools - Hammers

Category : [Maintenance](#)

Mine Type: [All Mines](#)

Hammers and axes being used as hammers, have been involved in almost 1 of every 4 hand tool accidents! The most common accident occurs when miners are struck by chips flying from the hammer or the struck object. These chips often become embedded in the miner's eye, face, rib cage or leg. Bystanders can be injured and surgery may be required to remove the chip(s).



Your fingers and hands can also be smashed by misusing hammers and you can hit your coworkers. You can avoid most accidents by remembering the following:

- Use the proper hammer and do not use an ax as a hammer
- Always wear personal protective equipment when hammering, especially eye protection
- When possible, use a holder, instead of your hand, to hold an object
- Avoid using hammers with 'mushroomed' or damaged heads
- Do not wear gloves that are wet, oily or greasy
- Warn others in the area of the danger of flying metal chips

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If you have a tip you would like to pass on, you can e-mail it to [MinersTips@msha.gov](mailto:MinersTips@msha.gov). If your tip is selected, you will receive credit in this space.

**Remember - Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!**