



Safety Alert



Hand Tool Safety at MNM Mines: January 2007 – December 2007

Hand tool accidents on mine sites resulted in serious injuries in 2007:

Accidents involving hand tool resulted in 1,072 reportable injuries -- 27% of which were lost time injuries.

- 6 reportable injuries were permanent, either total or partially disabling.
- 1 miner died from fatal head injuries.
- 222 injuries (21%) involved POWERED hand tools.
- 850 injuries (79%) involved NON-POWERED hand tools.
 - Most common type of injury:
 - 516 injuries included cuts, lacerations, punctures, and open wounds.
 - A significant cause was box cutters or utility knives: 153 injuries.
 - 107 injuries occurred during the performance of miscellaneous tasks.
 - **46 injuries directly resulted from cutting conveyor belt.**
 - Many of these injuries were hand or leg lacerations.
 - Belt cutting injuries resulted from tool slippage or belt cutting.

30 C.F.R. § 56.14205 Machinery, equipment, and tools: Machinery, equipment, and tools shall not be used beyond the design capacity intended by the manufacturer where such use may create a hazard to persons.

Best Practices - Safe Work Procedures:

- Use a cutter designed for belt cutting. These tools have special safety features.
- When using a box cutter on belt, plan for possible slippage.
 - Take steps to insure that knife or material slippage will not cause injury.
 - Utility knife: If possible, use one that requires pressure on the blade from the cutting surface. They are designed so that if the knife is pulled away from the cutting surface, the blade is spring loaded to retract.
- When automatic blade retraction is not available, work with the blade facing away from all exposed body parts.

*This product was developed as part of the MSHA Alliance Program. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of MSHA. Use of the Alliance Program logo is reserved for MSHA and its active Alliance partners. The MSHA Alliance Program promotes miner safety and health through voluntary partnerships, which provide training and education, outreach, technical assistance, and a national dialogue on mine safety and health. For more information, contact MSHA at (202) 693-9414 or <http://www.msha.gov/alliances/alliances.htm>.

**Statistics used are for the January-December 2007 metal and nonmetal mining industry (including independent contractors). Metal and nonmetal mine operators provide the raw data to MSHA required by 30 C.F.R. §50.20, Preparation and submission of MSHA report form 7000-1 – Mine Accident, Injury, and Illness Report.