

Safety Alert



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

POWERED HAND TOOLS

Hand tool accidents on mine sites often resulted in serious injury in 2007:

Accidents involving hand tools 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, including:
 - Electric drills: Exertion from working overhead

Drill bit breakage causing injury

Drill bit catching or slipping, causing injury

o Impact wrenches: Eye injuries from flying debris

Pinching

Over exertion

• Electric or Pneumatic Grinders:

Eye injuries from flying debris

Pinching

Kicking Back, causing a contact injury

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:

- Choose the correct tool for the task to be performed.
- Use the appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Always inspect tools prior to use.
- DO NOT use defective tools.
- Plan the task so possible tool slippage/breakage will not result in contact with person(s).
- Plan the task to include methods to avoid cumulative trauma (repetitive motion injury).
- When using any type of power tool, plan the task using methods to avoid contact injuries.

^{*}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 it's 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.	