



# 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:

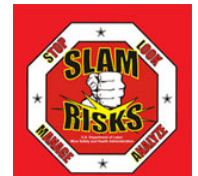
Accidents involving hand tools resulted in 1,072 reportable injuries -- 27% of which were lost time injuries.

- 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
  - 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.



**\*\*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.**