



U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Safety Alert

Underground Drilling with Augers and Jacklegs

Drilling accidents can happen fast.
The injuries are often serious
and can be fatal.

Using handheld augers or drills and jackleg type drills places drillers close to areas where loose rock or coal may pose a hazard. But injuries can be prevented by following good safety practices.

BEST PRACTICES

Train miners in the safe use of augers & drills.

Wear personal protective equipment; eye protection, gloves, safety boots with metatarsal guards, hard hats, hearing protection.

Perform a complete pre-operational inspection of the auger or drill before use.

Survey the work area for hazards (loose material on ribs or back, unstable ground, etc).

Bar down loose rock or coal.

Properly lift and support the auger or drill.

Always maintain control of the auger or drill (be prepared for kickbacks and drill torque).

Safety is a Value