

Safety Alert

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

21 November 2025

Fractured fingers using hand tool

While attempting to secure a steel plate on top of a concrete block, a worker used a concrete hammer drill with a long drill bit to create a hole.

During the retraction of the drill, the bit caught on embedded rebar within the concrete slab. This caused the drill to twist violently in the worker's hand, resulting in a hand injury.

The worker was taken to A&E for assessment and was subsequently diagnosed with two fractured fingers.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 7 years show 17% of incidents (1,213 incidents) result in an occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. When conducting a non-routine task, a risk assessment is conducted to ensure the job can be done safely.
2. The appropriate equipment is always used for a task, e.g. would a shorter drill bit have been better?
3. All workers are trained and assessed as competent to operate all tools and equipment, including use of safety features.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.