

# Safety Alert

21 November 2025

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

## 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.**