

Accident Prevention Alert!

Proper Drilling Procedures Prevent Injury

Recently, a roof bolting machine operator was seriously injured when he was struck by an unrestrained rotating drill steel. It is believed that the drill steel was removed from the hole while rotation was still activated.

Hydraulic drill guide



Mechanical drill guide



Best Practices:

- **STOP ROTATION 1 FOOT BEFORE EXITING THE HOLE!!**
- Ensure that most type roof bolting machines have drill guides (hydraulic or mechanical) and deep well chucks.
- Never touch or hold onto a rotating drilling tool, wrench, or bolt.
- Ensure that proper drill feed and rotation pressures are being used. Pressures should be only as high as necessary to efficiently drill the roof.
- To prevent whipping drill steels, drill rotation speed should never exceed 700 RPM (unless the manufacturer recommends a higher rate).
- Ensure that emergency shut-off switches (panic bars) are properly working.
- Properly maintain drill guides on mast feed roof bolting machines.
- Perform thorough exams of drill guides & all safety equipment on roof bolting machines.
- Ensure task training covers the use of drill guides as well as other proper drilling

