Non-Powered Hand Tools
15 Percent of Aggregates Injuries in 2012

In 2012, 227 accidents resulted from the use of non-powered hand tools at stone, sand and gravel operations. These accidents accounted for 15 percent of the total injuries reported at these operations.

- While trimming a conveyor belt with a utility knife, a miner accidently cut his right hand.
- A miner was using a hammer to hit a chisel, when the hammer's head flew off, hitting the worker in the leg, resulting in an infection.
- One miner was trying to pry a guard off of an apron feeder, and lost control of the hammer he was using, which hit a second miner.

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment when using hand tools.
- Inspect hand tools prior to using them.
- Always wear appropriate gloves when conducting repair and maintenance jobs. Consider mechanic-type gloves allowing for increased dexterity.
- Never strike metal on metal. Use dead blow hammers or tools designed to be struck with metal.

* This product was developed as part of the MSHA Alliance Program. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of MSHA. Use of the Alliance Program logo is reserved for MSHA and its active Alliance partners. The MSHA Alliance Program is to promote miner safety and health through voluntary partnerships, which provide training and education, outreach, technical assistance, and a national dialog on mine safety and health. For more information, contact MSHA at (202) 693-9414 or http://www.msha.gov/alliances/alliances.htm.