

# NZ Safety Alert

13 October 2023

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

## Worker injured using sledgehammer

A worker was using a sledgehammer to de-peg rock from a shaker screen.

There was restricted access in this area and the worker was unable to use the sledgehammer correctly.

While attempting to swing the hammer the worker pinched his sciatica nerve.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 14% of incidents (874 incidents) result in an occupational injury.

### You need to ensure that:

1. The most appropriate tool is used to carry out all tasks (i.e. where it is difficult to use a large hammer substitute with a smaller tool).
2. Consider replacing manual operations with hydraulic or other energy assisted tools.
3. All manual handling tasks are risk assessed and all workers trained in the safe use of manual handling tools.
4. All equipment is fit for purpose and used as designed to be used.

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