

Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS): video transcript

Glyn has worked as a stonemason for over 40 years, including on railway buildings. He has developed silicosis and hand arm vibration syndrome as a result of his work. With the correct workplace control measures in place, this needn't happen to anyone else.

This is Glyn's story.

"My name is Glyn Jones

I'm a stonemason

I've been doing it for 43 years

we literally worked the stone

when we worked it

we then went out and cut the stone

on the building the one that was defected,

sandstone, limestone, granite, marble,

we worked them all.

As regards with working with vibrations white finger

this mainly came round in the late 80s

that's when I was first made aware

that I've got vibration

that's affected my fingers

these two fingers go white

my third finger is badly effected

and they can go numb

you can wake up and the circulation has gone numb

vibration really took hold with us

when we started using hand-held hand chisels
using pneumatic tools
the reason being is, the left hand, the chisels
were just literally held into the chisel
and you applied the pneumatic
chisel to the chisel
and as a result you got vibration going into both hands
we were later given anti-vibration rubber gloves
however, these were largely ineffective
because up till then, you used tools
and then at the end of an eight hour shift
your hands were throbbing
and there were none of these time limits we have now
we now have time limits, they even time to certain chisels
and to certain guns, how long you can use them.