

## Using the SD Pick-prod

The SD Pick-prod is designed to resist the forces associated with the detonation of an anti-personnel blast mine.



SD Part no.: SKU3011

This tool is designed to be used when investigating a suspicious object under the ground, usually following a metal-detector indication. The length of the tool (nominally 30 cm in front of the hand) is designed to keep the hand safe and also to make it easiest to use at a low angle to the ground.

Tests have shown that the handle, handguard and blade do not separate in an anti-personnel blast mine explosion. The photograph on the right shows the tools after blasts. This does not mean that the tool will not be damaged in a blast. The tool is designed to bend but not to break or separate into component parts.



If you cut across the blade of the tool, you would find that its blade has a "T" profile like that shown on the left. This makes the tool strong enough to be used in hard ground and the sides mean that small amounts of spoil can be scraped aside.



Insert the Pick-prod and twist the blade to break up the ground.

### CAUTION!

Do not use the tool with both hands. If one hand is on the shaft, it will be dangerously close to any explosion.



When the ground is too hard to use the Pick-prod effectively use the **SD Two-handed excavator** to break up the ground well back from the detector signal, then use the Pick-prod to loosen the face of the excavation.

*SD blast-resistant hand-tools for Humanitarian Demining are made using design rules developed during research funded by US Army CECOM NVESD by Andy Smith. See the design rules at <http://www.nolandmines.com/hand-tooledesigncriteria.htm>*