

# NZ Safety Alert

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

June 2019

## Lacerated wrist requiring sutures

A worker cut out a section of mesh using bolt cutters so that he could remove rock spillage behind the mesh. While removing the rocks, a wedged rock quickly ejected, landing on his arm and forcing contact with the cut mesh.

The worker sustained a laceration to his wrist which required sutures.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the now eight fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, five of them were a result of falls. Recent research from Australia, which covered extractives industry fatalities from 16 countries world-wide identified that 34% of fatalities are a result of falls, with objects falling on people being the dominant cause.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Risk assessments are conducted before any non-routine task is carried out.
2. Effective controls are implemented to ensure workers are not exposed to the risk of harm when conducting non-routine tasks.
3. Spillage issues are addressed through the use of scrapers, skirts, diversion chutes etc. to reduce buildup in areas that are difficult to clean.
4. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify rock fall hazards and spillage issues

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 2 years to Mar 2019 shows that 20% of all incidents result from falls of which 76 incidents result from fall of ground.**

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