

## Worker exposed to fall from height

During his prestart inspection, a mobile crusher operator observed a blockage of steel mesh trapped between the crusher's magnet and the magnet belt and decided to remove it. Unable to reach the mesh from the platform level, he walked around the engine cover and stepped down on to the crusher magnet and from there attempted to remove the mesh. He was not attached to any fall protection.

He was at the wrong angle to get good purchase on the mesh, so he stepped over the front rail of the magnet mounting frame and down on to the discharge conveyor belt where he was able to remove the mesh. The action of stepping on to the magnet and then the discharge conveyor belt exposed the operator to a potential free fall of 2 metres to ground level and then on a further 2 metres down the face of a steep crushed rock stockpile.



Indication of fall height from crusher

Falls, including people falling or objects falling on people, is one of the four fatal hazards that result in 80% of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Falls tops the list ahead of collisions, entanglement, and pressure release.

You need to ensure that:

- **Appropriate handrails are installed on mobile plant to allow safe access when conducting pre-start inspections and normal equipment operation.**
- **Equipment compliance/safety checks are conducted on mobile equipment prior to being put into service. This will identify shortcomings in access and egress, and other safety features.**
- **Working at heights procedures and/or risk assessments are understood by all workers and are adequately supervised, and tasks observed, to ensure risk controls are in place and are effective.**

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

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