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**LIEBHERR**

**Incident reporting to focus on near misses - MinEx**

Cameron Massey - Tue, 20 Feb 2018

To alter the way operators think about workplace risks and near misses MinEx is calling on the extractive industries to change the way incidents are recorded.



Chief executive officer Wayne Scott would like to see the industry move away from the historic measurement of lost time injury frequency.

He says MinEx is moving towards a measurement of incidents that could have been fatal, often called "near hits".

"The purpose is to get people focused on the things that can kill them."

He says that starts people thinking about the precursors that lead up to an event.

"Once you do that, you start thinking about the controls that you need to put in place to ensure that someone does not get seriously injured or killed in such events."

**Report incidents honestly**

Scott agrees with WorkSafe in its advice to operators to not downplay notifiable workplace events.

In December, Trade Depot appeared in Auckland District Court following an incident where more than 200kg of plasterboard fell on a worker in Takanini.

The May 2016 incident left the worker with a skull fracture and head injuries requiring surgery and four days hospitalisation.

The company failed to notify WorkSafe of the incident at the time, and then tried to downplay its severity when it did finally notify the agency.

When asked for a description of the injury, Trade Depot noted "probable concussion from impact" with no reference to extensive bleeding, fractures, surgery and hospitalisation.

Trade Depot was convicted and fined \$98,156.25 and ordered to pay \$24,000 reparation. It could have been fined up to \$1.5 million for failing to keep its workers safe.

The company could have been fined up to \$50,000 for failing to properly notify WorkSafe.

**Other risky operations**

Scott adds that collisions are a classic example of 'near hits'.

"A majority of vehicle events do not result in injury but if something went wrong, or if the circumstances were different, they could result in death or serious injury."

He says analysis of these incidents may identify particular intersections or areas of each site where more incidents occur.

"If you back your loader into the shed often no one is injured. But if someone had been walking behind the loader, they would have been killed.

"So, ask yourself, why are people backing into sheds, and what can we do to make sure no-one is walking behind the vehicle when it is reversing."

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### Ward

#### Quarry



**Location** 206 Swan Road, Te Kauwhata

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### New Zealand Coal & Carbon



**Ownership** Thomas Brown Limited

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