

NZ Safety Alert

9 December 2022

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

Ground failure incident

A water recycling detention pond used for water suppression and aggregate cleaning, had been drained.

Following heavy rainfall, a block of land/material approximately 15m across x 6m wide and a depth up to 10m has slid down the bank into a gully. No one was injured.

An inspection the day before indicated no structural failures, damage or instability in the surrounding ground.

Structural repair has been carried out to restore water detention and resume operations.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 5 years to September 2022 show 16% (860) of all incidents involve falls of which 205 result from fall of ground.

You need to ensure that:

1. Regular site inspections for ground instability are conducted, particularly after significant rainfall.
2. There is adequate drainage to prevent water build up on or in unstable ground.
3. Hazards associated with all ground instability are identified in risk assessments, and adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the hazards identified.

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