

NZ Safety Alert

15 May 2020

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

Fall from height hazard

A contractor employee was working at height while completing sign writing to the boom on a concrete pump truck.

Another worker observed the working at height hazard and noticed that safety harness equipment was not being used nor were protection barriers in place to protect him from falling and serious harm. The work was immediately halted until controls were put in place.

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.



You need to ensure that:

1. Fall hazards such as trip hazards and areas where workers can fall from height are identified in risk assessments.
2. Adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the fall hazards identified.
3. Appropriate work platforms are used for all working at height tasks.
4. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 15% of all incidents (441 incidents) involve falls, 211 of which result from fall of a person.

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