

NZ Safety Alert

17 July 2020

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

Uncontrolled movement of excavator boom

An operator was exiting his excavator when he noticed the boom moving. He had not lowered the boom and it was not in "safety mode", thus the boom was able to move freely.

He quickly re-entered the excavator and lowered the boom into "safety mode".

Far too many incidents occur due to mobile equipment not being stable when parked or not in use.

The consequences of uncontrolled movement of machines can be fatal.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 30% of all incidents (763 incidents) involve mobile plant and vehicles, 316 of which resulted from loss of control of a vehicle.

You need to ensure that:

1. When shutting down mobile equipment, operators ensure the equipment is parked on a level surface with the boom and bucket attachment lowered to the ground.
2. All equipment is operated in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer recommendations, including safety features and procedures.
3. Mobile equipment operators are trained and assessed as competent to use all equipment they are operating.

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