

NZ Safety Alert

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

21 February 2020

Fire destroys excavator

A loader driver at a quarry spotted smoke coming from the engine bay of a 50 tonne excavator.

He alerted other workers to the fire and three workers tried to extinguish the fire by emptying their fire extinguishers.

The fire could not be extinguished, and the excavator was destroyed.

While still under investigation, it is believed a fuel or hydraulic fluid leak onto hot components had started the fire.

No-one was injured in the incident.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sept 2019 shows that 3% of all incidents (70 incidents) related to fire.

You need to ensure that:

1. All mobile plant is maintained in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer requirements.
2. Mobile equipment pre-start checks include signs of leaks and other potential fire hazards.
3. You have clear procedures for how to deal with fires on mobile equipment including provision of appropriate firefighting equipment.
4. Workers are trained and assessed as competent to deal with fires on plant and equipment.

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