

NZ Safety Alert

24 July 2020

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

Severe weather events

Heavy rain recently has caused ground instability, including washouts and slips over the top of the North Island and Gisborne areas.

Such weather and saturated ground inevitably impacts on mine and quarry sites, making haul roads slippery and stockpiles and benches potentially unstable.

Fall of ground has killed workers in New Zealand and slippery conditions have led to loss of control of vehicle incidents.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 18% of all incidents (452 incidents) involve falls, 99 of which resulted from fall of ground.

You need to ensure that:

1. Regular workplace inspections are conducted, especially following severe weather events to identify potentially unstable ground and slippery surfaces.
2. Catch bunds and exclusion zones are established where slips or potential ground failures are identified.
3. Mobile equipment is not used on slippery or unstable haul roads, and speeds are adjusted to match weather conditions.

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