

NZ Safety Alert

6 March 2020

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers

Injury stepping off loader

After checking and replenishing oil into a 950H CAT front-end loader, a worker attempted to step off the loader back onto firm ground when he heard a snapping noise and felt sharp pain in his lower right calf muscle.

The incident happened not long after the workers first break around 12pm. The weather was fine and not frosty, and it was not the first time this employee had climbed on and off the loader.

The injury was first diagnosed as a sprain but did not improve after resting, so was re-diagnosed as a torn calf muscle. The worker was given further time off which eventuated in a total of 7 weeks. He has since returned to work.



You need to ensure that:

1. Access and egress on mobile plant is fit-for-purpose to ensure workers are not injured climbing onto and off machines.
2. Workers report injuries including minor strains to ensure they are fit for work on that day and subsequent days.
3. Workplace observations are conducted to identify activities that could result in occupational injuries.
4. Medicals are conducted to ensure workers are fit for the tasks they conduct.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sept 2019 shows that 12% of all incidents (270 incidents) result in occupational injuries.

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