

NZ Safety Alert

5 August 2022

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

Fire on excavator

An excavator was loading material onto a truck when a hydraulic hose burst, atomising oil onto a manifold which caught fire.

The operator saw the oil spray and slewed the bucket to stabilise the machine before exiting.

The fire extinguisher on the excavator was unable to be accessed due to flames. The operator went to the nearest vehicle and retrieved a fire extinguisher in an attempt to extinguish fire.

The fire services were called and eventually extinguished the fire.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 57 months to Mar 2022 show 3% (151) of all incidents involved fire.

You need to ensure that:

1. All workers understand and follow procedures for what to do when they experience an engine fire on mobile plant.
2. Regular inspections are conducted on mobile equipment to identify leaks or damage to hydraulic systems.
3. Adequate fire protection equipment is always available to protect workers from the impact of fire and protect equipment from serious damage.

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