

NZ Safety Alert

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

6 August 2021

Infected puncture wound

While clearing debris from a drop box on a sand plant, a worker received a very small puncture wound on the arm.

The worker carried on with their duties and went home for the weekend. Over the weekend the wound started swelling, feeling sore and irritated.

The worker went to the doctor where antibiotics were prescribed, and the infection marked. Within a couple of days, the infection spread further than the original marked area requiring further medical treatment.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 45 months to Mar 2021 show 14% of all incidents (568 incidents) result in an occupational injury.



You need to ensure that:

1. You ensure that all wounds are immediately cleaned with soap and water or disinfectant.
2. All wounds are covered with clean and dry bandages, and medical treatment is sought immediately if there are signs of infection.
3. PPE is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and the correct PPE for the tasks being conducted.

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