

NZ Safety Alert

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

13 July 2023

Confirmed silicosis cases

WorkSafe have received notification of two confirmed silicosis cases of workers in a New Zealand quarry. While still under investigation, this is a stark reminder to all of us in the extractive industries of hazardous substances that our workers may be exposed to.

The Regulations require every site to identify hazards to worker health, implement appropriate controls and conduct regular health monitoring to ensure controls are effective in protecting workers from hazardous exposures.

MinEx has a booklet on managing worker exposure to dust in mines and quarries on our website:

<https://www.minex.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Managing-worker-exposure-to-dust-in-mines-and-quarriesweb.pdf>

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 11 cases of confirmed occupational illness.



You need to ensure that:

1. All hazards at site that could affect worker health are identified, including air quality hazards (dust, diesel emissions etc.).
2. Regular exposure monitoring is conducted to identify areas where workers are exposed to health hazards.
3. Regular health medicals are conducted to assess the effectiveness of controls in place to protect workers from health hazards.

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