

NZ Safety Alert

10 December 2021

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

Dust and wind hazards

We are officially in summer, and we should now start to get more sunshine and less wind. However, strong winds are often still a common weather condition and it's important to remember the need for controls on areas that can be a source of dust.

Extraction areas and stockpiles are two source points that need dust control. This might be water suppression or a halt to extraction during particularly dusty times.

Dust is very rarely respirable, but any dust can be harmful or at least annoying to a worker's health, so do the right thing.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 51 months to Sept 2021 show 5% of all incidents (193 incidents) involve environmental incidents with potential for harm.

You need to ensure that:

1. Controls such as watercarts, wet dust suppression, enclosed and sealed cabins on mobile plant, and separation of workers from dusty areas are in place and working.
2. Weather conditions and airborne dust are regularly monitored to ensure controls are effective.
3. All workers are trained in dust mitigation controls and regular workplace inspections are conducted.

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