

NZ Safety Alert

2 December 2022

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

Digger contacts electrical transformer

An operator was asked to clean up around the fixed plant with a digger. As the small digger wouldn't start, he opted for a larger digger to perform the task.

He was operating the digger when he swivelled around and the counterbalance contacted the plant electrical transformer.

The digger was moved away from the transformer and the electrician and electrical power supplier were contacted to inspect the transformer. This was found to still be safe for operation.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 5 years to September 2022 show 29% (1,595) of all incidents involve vehicles of which 796 result from vehicle collisions.

You need to ensure that:

1. Site equipment such as transformers are adequately protected by bollards or other suitable barriers.
2. The most appropriate equipment is used for any task to ensure that task can be conducted safely.
3. Hazards associated with all maintenance tasks are identified in risk assessments, and adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the hazards identified.

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