

Safety Alert

15 December 2023

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

Elevator plummets, killing 11 in South African platinum mine

On the evening of 27 November an elevator suddenly dropped around 200 metres while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in the northern city of Rustenburg, South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75 — 14 of them critically.

The huge elevator has three levels, each with the capacity to hold 35 workers, and the mine shaft is approximately 1 kilometre deep.

The Impala Rustenburg mine has nine shafts and was the world's largest platinum mine by production last year.

The incident is being investigated by the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy.

[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 16% of incidents (963 incidents) involve falls of which 368 involved fall of a person.



You need to ensure that:

1. Appropriate controls are in place to protect workers from falls when transporting workers to and from the surface in underground operations.
2. All equipment used to transport workers is maintained in accordance with Original Equipment manufacturers (OEM) requirements.
3. Elevators are equipped with safety brakes that are triggered into action if the elevator's speed exceeds its designed limitations.

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