

Excavator topples onto its side

A worker was operating an excavator on the muckpile. He was attempting to reposition the excavator when the tracks extended beyond the edge of the heap and the excavator fell backwards and then onto its side. The operator was wearing a seat belt and the excavator had a full ROPS/FOPS cabin, protecting him from injury.



There have been a large number of recent incidents involving excavators falling over or onto their side.

Common factors contributing to these incidents were:

- poorly constructed and narrow working pads
- uncompacted ground
- working too close to the edge of benches or ramps, and
- not applying basic risk-management principles, particularly hazard identification.

You need to ensure that:

- **Working pads are adequately compacted and constructed so their length and width are at least 50 per cent greater than the length and width of the excavator**
- **When working on benches, excavator tracks are parallel to the face and positioned an adequate distance from the edge, taking into account the stability of the edge in terms of geological structure, blast damage and undercutting**
- **Operator training and assessment takes account of specific site conditions and activities**
- **Operators understand Original Equipment Manufacturer operating instructions, including load limits at various boom extension distances, stability parameters, and safe operating procedures**
- **Risk assessments are completed on all tasks to ensure that hazards are identified, risks assessed, and effective controls are put in place.**

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

3 August 2018