

NZ Safety Alert

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

June 2019

Flyrock damages utility

During a blast, flyrock went through the canopy window on a utility.

This is the most recent in a number of flyrock and blast related incidents.

Pressure release is one of the four fatal hazards that kill 80% of workers in the mining and quarrying sector, and in fact in workplaces generally throughout the world. Pressure release incidents occur while blasting, or working with hydraulic pressure, water pressure, electricity and any other power source.



You need to ensure that:

1. Blast exclusion zones are calculated for each shot taking into consideration minimum safe distances for plant and people and based on actual burdens.
2. Consideration is given to laser profiling of faces and bore tracking of the front row of holes, in order to establish accuracy of drilling and actual burdens prior to loading a shot.
3. You have sufficient knowledge of your site's geology to help inform blast design and calculation of relevant safe exclusion zones.
4. The Blast Plan, including exclusion zones, is communicated to all on site on the day of the blast.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 2 years to Mar 2019 shows that 7% of all incidents result from release of pressure, of which 41 incidents resulted from blasting.

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