NZ Safety Alert

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

December 2018

Injury during jaw cleaning

While workers were cleaning rocks from a jaw crusher, a steel plate was used as a working platform at the bottom of the jaw to ensure safe footing for workers. As workers were placing rock onto the screen (which was spring-loaded), it pushed down against the steel plate. When the steel plate was removed it tilted under the weight from the screen and the nearby supervisor reacted by trying to stabilise it. The sudden movement resulted in the supervisor receiving a torn bicep tendon injury.

The steel plate was an innovation for the site and had not been used before. Workers and management failed to identify the hazards of a new piece of plant prior to use.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the twelve months to June 2018 shows that 18% of all incidents (205 incidents) result from pressure release or occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. Risk assessments are conducted before any new plant is installed or new or changed task is undertaken to identify potential hazards.
2. Where possible, blocks or other devices are used to prevent tension on plant during maintenance (in this case blocks could have been used to prevent tension on the screen).
3. Appropriate lifting lugs are installed on items being lifted to ensure an even lift (in this case lifting lugs on the steel plate may have avoided the injury).
4. Risk controls are regularly reviewed to ensure they are effective and whether additional hazards may have been created as a result controls implemented.

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