

SAFETY ALERT



Air Excavation Operations

DETAILS

In June the operator of an AirVac system was harmed when his leg was sucked into the live unit. The operator was excavating using an extension pipe, when the AirVac became blocked. He placed the extension pipe on the ground and left it running to clear itself. The operator continued other work in close proximity to the still running AirVac. When the blockage cleared the operators leg was pulled into the pipe.

The worker has a fractured foot and is off work for a minimum of two months.

KEY LEARNINGS

Initial Learnings from this incident are:

- Live equipment must be appropriately handled and or isolated.
- A review of safe work methodology is required

Further key learnings will be circulated upon completion of a comprehensive investigation into this incident.

FURTHER ACTIONS

The use of any Air Excavation systems on AT sites, must be checked prior to operation to ensure the appropriate safe working method statement (SWMS), risk assessment and operating procedures have been reviewed.

REMINDER

Please distribute and communicate this Safety Alert to all team members, and ensure all controls in place are effective to prevent similar incidents occurring when working with and around live equipment.

Occurred

04 June 2021

Issued

02 July 2021

Location

New Lynn - Avondale

Outcome

Lost Time Injury

Potential outcome

Life Changing Injury

