

# NZ Safety Alert

30 July 2021

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

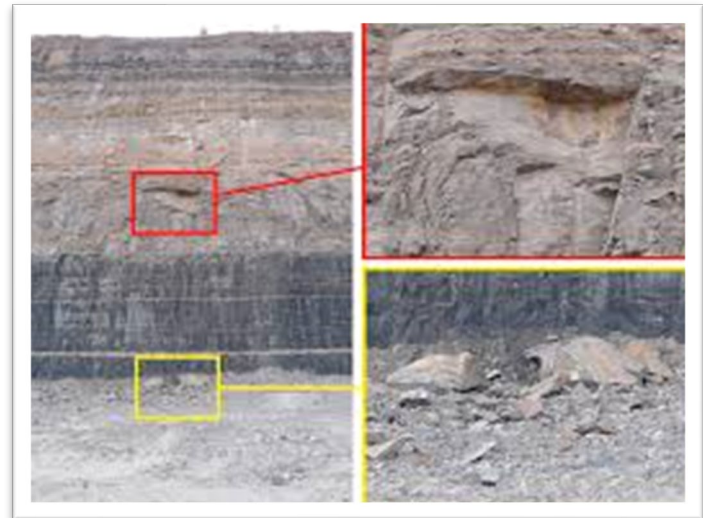
## Rock falls from quarry face

An excavator was digging a face on a bench when a large rock let go falling out of face. The rock had potential to strike the stick of the excavator and due to its size had the potential to damage the machine.

The face was inspected by the excavator operator and appeared stable but due to a clay fissure behind the rock, as the clay dried and shrunk the rock dislodged itself.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the now nine fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, six of them were a result of falls.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 45 months to Mar 2021 show 16% of all incidents (608 incidents) involve falls, of which 4% (138 incidents) involved fall of ground.



### You need to ensure that:

1. You always construct a good load out pad and have a catch bund/trench between the excavator pad and the face or muck pile.
2. Equipment is fit for purpose and operated in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) requirements.
3. All workers are trained and competent to operate mobile equipment in all conditions and situations.

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