

# NZ Safety Alert

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

May 2019

## Loader over-balance incident

A Volvo L250H loader was delivering a bucket full of sand to an aggregate blending stockpile. As the loader approached the mixing point the operator began to raise the bucket in preparation to unload the bucket. The center of gravity shifted too far forward, beyond the limits of the counterweights' effectiveness and the loader slowly came to rest on its bucket and front wheels, the rear wheels being in the air. The body of the loader was slightly off center to the operator's right when it experienced the overbalancing event. A bund was established behind the loader to avoid it tipping, and the operator was able to right the loader.

The operator had picked up the same volume of material as per previous loads, however heavy rain during morning tea break could have contributed to the heavier load.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Your site establishes the maximum lifting load for each piece of mobile plant, taking into consideration different articulations and heights of lifting (OEM manuals may assist).
2. The Safe Weight Lifting load is clearly displayed for each piece of plant and in each situation.
3. Consideration is given to environmental conditions such as heavy rain, and impact on load weights.
4. Operators are adequately trained and competent to operate mobile equipment in all circumstances and conditions.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 18 months to Dec 2018 shows that 28% of all incidents involve vehicles of which 176 incidents (48%) were a result of loss of control of a vehicle.**

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