

NZ Safety Alert

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

March 2019

Loss of control of dump truck

A watercart was being used to water a haul road to suppress dust in a quarry. Directly after the haul road was watered, a dump truck was descending the road empty when the dual wheels locked up and the operator lost control of the dump truck. The operator was able to steer it towards the inside batter rather than the edge of the road and no injury or major damage was sustained. A dump truck in front of this one, experienced partial loss of control and warned the driver just prior to him losing control.

A number of recent similar incidents have identified loss of concentration, operator distractions, poor maintenance on vehicles, and lack of operator awareness as major contributing factors to incidents involving loss of control of a vehicle.



You need to ensure that:

1. Care is taken to ensure haul roads are not over-watered.
2. Regular inspections of haul roads are conducted to ensure they are not too slippery after watering or heavy rain.
3. Operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.
4. Lessons from incidents, including learnings are shared with all workers.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 18 months to Dec 2018 shows that 28% of all incidents (389 incidents) result from vehicle incidents, 45% of which are due to loss of control of a vehicle.

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