

# NZ Safety Alert

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

11 August 2023

## Pressurised oil release on excavator

Fitters were undertaking a refit of an excavator stick to boom. As they removed the blanking caps from the stick cylinder pipe connections, pressurised oil escaped and sprayed approximately 5 metres across the maintenance bay and over a maintenance fitter who was working off a platform ladder (approx. 1.8m high).

The worker was using a platform ladder without the protection bar in place and could have fallen from height.

Prior to this, the system had been de-energised as per OEM procedure and workers were wearing task appropriate PPE and were not injured.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 5% of incidents (267 incidents) result from release of pressure, of which 95 involved hydraulic pressure.

### You need to ensure that:

1. When working with systems that may have stored energy, that all pressure has been released prior to loosening fittings and plugs, in accordance with OEM requirements.
2. When using platform ladders with a safety bar, that the bar is in place before using the platform.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify unsafe practices.

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