

NZ Safety Alert

9 July 2021

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

Quarry fatality from rock fall

Our hearts and thoughts are with the family, friends and workmates of a quarry worker fatally injured at a small farm quarry.

Details have not yet been released and we need to respect those involved by not speculating on the circumstances.

What we do know is that a rock fell onto an excavator fatally injuring the operator.

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. Operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.
2. Equipment is fit for purpose and operated in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) requirements.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify work areas where there are fall hazards and what, if any, exposure workers have to these hazards.

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