

## Rock falls from face

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During normal operations on a fine day, a large rock fell from the working face along from where the digger was operating. The rock landed in a safe zone at the base of the bench between the bench and the stock pile on the floor of the quarry.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the now eight fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, five of them were a result of falls. Recent research from Australia, which covered extractives industry fatalities from 16 countries world-wide identified that 34% of fatalities are a result of falls, with objects falling on people being the dominant cause.



**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the twelve months to June 2018 shows 23% of all incidents (235 incidents) resulted from falls, with 43 of these incidents being fall of ground.**

You need to ensure that:

1. **Fall hazards such as slope stability, unsecured tools, screens etc., trip hazards and areas where workers can fall from height are identified in risk assessments.**
2. **Adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the fall hazards identified.**
3. **Regular pit inspections are conducted to identify work areas where there are signs of instability or exposure of workers to fall hazards.**
4. **Bunds and/or exclusion zones are installed where rock fall hazards exist.**
5. **Unstable faces, stockpiles etc. are monitored to identify signs of potential fall hazards.**

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

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