

NZ Safety Alert

16 September 2022

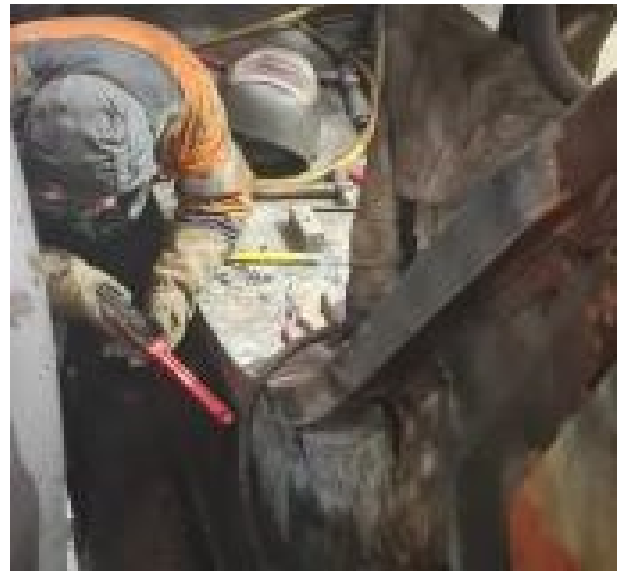
Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Burn to leg from air arc gouging

A contractor's apprentice was arc gouging a backing plate on an excavator to repair cracks. The position of the apprentice during the work resulted in the slag and sparks falling towards their feet, resulting in their overalls catching on fire.

An extinguisher was used to put out the flame before removing the overalls and providing first aid.

The apprentice received burns that required medical treatment including a skin graft.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 5 years to June 2022 show 3% (155) of all incidents result from the presence of fire.

You need to ensure that:

1. All workers are wearing appropriate PPE for hot work which may include gloves, spats and aprons as required.
2. Access for hot work is risk-assessed to ensure adequate controls are in place to manage fire hazards.
3. All workers understand and follow hot work procedures, and regular refresher training is carried out.

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