

# NZ Safety Alert

2 September 2022

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

## Worker struck by excavator boom

An excavator was being used to lift crusher screens in and out during screen replacement at a quarry.

As the operator entered the cab, his wet weather coat covered the control lever and as he sat down, he automatically released the dead-man lever while reaching for his seatbelt. When he released the dead-man, the coat pressure on the control lever caused the digger to slew round, striking a fellow worker, knocking him off his feet and onto the grid above the jaw crusher.

The worker sustained a crush injury to one of his legs and broken bones in the other, requiring hospital treatment.

[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 5 years to June 2022 show 29% (1,487) of all incidents involved vehicles of which 689 resulted from loss of control of a vehicle.



### You need to ensure that:

1. The most appropriate plant is used for lifting tasks and that a lift plan, identifying all hazards, is completed before any lift.
2. All workers involved in lifting using plant are suitably trained and competent (including in rigging and slinging).
3. No one is within the fall zone when anything is being lifted, including the slew zone of plant being used for the lift.

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