

NZ Safety Alert

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

March 2019

Severe weather events

Recent events on the West Coast have again highlighted the destructive potential of severe weather events and call for a high level of preparedness.

You must ensure adequate resources, facilities and procedures are available before, during and after a storm.

An adequate emergency response and rescue system must be in place in case a severe weather event causes injury,

Although severe weather is often localised and infrequent, this does not provide any real margin of safety. As part of the overall preparation process, everyone on site, including contractors, must be made aware of the site's emergency response plan (including location of safe places) and what is expected of them.



Sites should also check their communication and mutual assistance procedures with adjacent mines, quarries or other offsite resources such as emergency services.

You need to ensure that:

1. You develop a seasonal action plan, based on the specific hazards that might be present on site.
2. Your site has a process for identifying and warning anyone who could be affected by severe weather events.
3. You have a system for moving people to a place of safety including considerations for evacuation of people off site
4. Adequate communication systems and processes are in place so that workers are kept informed of pending danger and what you expect of them.
5. A site inspection is conducted following a severe weather event to identify and control hazards prior to site re-entry and commencement of work.

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