

NZ Safety Alert

10 February 2023

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

Slip of material hits excavator

An excavator was sitting on a muck pile loading dump trucks at the face, when the bench behind the shot slipped resulting in rock hitting the excavator.

The face had been excavated clean and while loading the last couple of trucks, material slipped on a greasyback or natural weathered fault.

No one was injured and there was no major damage to the excavator.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 5 years to September 2022 show 16% (860) of all incidents involve falls of which 205 result from fall of ground.

You need to ensure:

1. Regular site inspections for ground instability are conducted, particularly after significant rainfall.
2. That a catch bench is established between the excavator and face when working on a muck pile.
3. When operating an excavator on a shot, that the cab of the excavator is on the free side of the shot i.e. not facing the bench.

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