

NZ Safety Alert

3 February 2023

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

Slopes and road instability

Heavy rainfall has devastated much of the North Island this week resulting in fatalities, ground instability, flooding and road closures.

Extractive sites are not immune to these weather events and care must be taken when travelling to and from work.

Before commencing work ensure all areas of your site are inspected for damage, new hazards, and potential ground instability.

DO NOT ENTER FLOOD WATER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

[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. No one enters an area where flooding or ground instability may exist.
3. There is adequate drainage to prevent water build up on or in unstable ground.
4. Hazards associated with all ground instability are identified in risk assessments, and adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no one is exposed to the hazards identified.

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