

NZ Safety Alert

1 September 2023

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers

Uncontrolled movement of loader

A loader was loading a high sided box trailer at a quarry. As the loader operator lifted the loaded bucket and approached the trailer, he felt some instability and reversed abruptly causing the loader to topple forward, then return back on its wheels and continue uncontrolled in reverse.

The operator was thrown against the cabin window and lost control of the loader. He sustained injuries to his head and shoulder.

Another person came to his aid and turned the loader off.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 30% of incidents (1,784 incidents) involve vehicles, of which 871 resulted from loss of control of a vehicle.

You need to ensure that:

1. All operators of mobile plant are trained and assessed as competent for the machines they are operating.
2. Seatbelts are worn at all times in mobile equipment.
3. Fit-for-purpose equipment is used for all tasks.
4. Equipment used is not modified outside of Original Equipment Manufacturers specs including the use of non-standard buckets.

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