

# NZ Safety Alert

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

29 September 2023

## Bad weather and unstable ground

The recent spring polar blast, on the back of wet weather for much of the year, has increased the number of incidents involving slips and unstable ground, particularly in Northland, Auckland and the East Coast of the North Island, but also much of the country.

In many parts of the country, ground is failing under the weight of sodden material. Water is getting into cracks and destabilising benches and batters.

MinEx has a booklet on managing slope stability on our website:

<https://www.minex.org.nz/assets/Booklets/Slope-stability-in-opencast-mines-and-quarries.pdf>

[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 16% of incidents (963 incidents) result from fall, of which 218 involved fall of ground.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Regular checks of ground stability are conducted particularly after severe weather events.
2. People are kept clear of any potentially unstable faces, benches, or stockpiles.
3. No work on site is conducted after severe weather events until all potentially unstable areas are inspected and certified as safe for workers and plant.

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