

NZ Safety Alert

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

18 August 2023

Worker fall incidents on the increase

The latest reported quarterly incidents include an increased number of incidents involving fall of workers which include:

- An employee was entering a truck. His foot slipped on the lowest pedal, and he dropped onto the ground and hurt his back.
- Loader operator missed bottom step whilst dismounting machine causing abrasion to leg.
- A worker parked an excavator and as he stepped off, he rolled his ankle as his foot landed on the ground.



Access and egress to mobile equipment is a major contributor to these incidents.

[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 16% of incidents (963 incidents) result from fall, of which 368 involved fall of a person.

You need to ensure that:

1. Plant operators maintain three points of contact when entering and exiting the cabins of mobile equipment.
2. Safety boots are securely fastened, either laced up or zipped up.
3. Good housekeeping ensures work areas are free from obstructions to prevent slips, trips and falls.
4. Workers are made aware of the hazards when entering and exiting the cabins of mobile equipment.

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