

NZ Safety Alert

8 July 2022

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

Worker falls from excavator

An excavator operator climbed up onto his digger to check the oil as part of his prestart checks.

As he climbed down from the excavator holding the handrail, the worker missed the first step and fell to the ground, landing on his back.

First aid was applied, and the worker did not sustain any serious injuries.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 57 months to Mar 2022 show 16% (771) of all incidents involved falls, and 7% (321) involved fall of a person.

You need to ensure that:

1. Suitable access and egress is available for workers conducting prestart checks, particularly if climbing up onto mobile equipment.
2. All workers understand and follow safe work procedures, including access and egress.
3. Workplace inspections include behaviour and task identification to ensure tasks are carried out safely and as designed.

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