

NZ Safety Alert

4 September 2020

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

Worker falls off dozer

A mechanic was standing on the track of a dozer in order to remove the seat to access a hydraulic hose that had burst. The seat was very heavy and too much for one person to carry.

The mechanic slipped and fell from the dozer track fracturing his shoulder.

COVID-19 distancing protocols may have driven the decision to conduct this task alone.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the eight fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, five of them were a result of falls.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 33 months to Mar 2020 show 18% of all incidents (486 incidents) involve falls, 232 of which resulted from fall of a person.

You need to ensure that:

1. You do not overlook regular hazards on site, including any increased risks created by changes to the way we do things due to COVID-19.
2. Fall hazards such as poor access and areas where workers can fall from height are identified in risk assessments.
3. Any task requiring lifting is risk assessed to ensure appropriate lifting techniques and equipment are used, including two-man lifts where necessary.

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