

NZ Safety Alert

24 May 2024

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

Thumb injured in tailgate

While loading a quarry customer's truck, the loader driver realised that product was spilling from the back of the truck. He advised the driver of the spillage.

The driver of the truck got out of the cab and attempted to close the tailgate. As he slammed it shut his right thumb was jammed between the frame and tailgate causing his thumb to be badly injured.

The driver was flown to Waikato hospital and his injured thumb was able to be saved.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 15% of incidents (945 incidents) result in occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. Truck tailgates are secure and trips are closed before trucks enter loading areas.
2. Drivers stay in their cab at all times while loading takes place.
3. Everyone keeps hands clear of all tailgate frames, trips and other areas where they could get trapped when removing loose product or closing tailgates.
4. Loader operator and driver training includes identifying partially loaded trucks with insecure tailgates.

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