MinEx
Health and Safety in NZ extractives

Safety Alert

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

6 November 2026

Manual handling injury to shoulder

A worker was replacing worn and damaged hydraulic hoses on a drill rig. The hose loom was supported on boom stands, providing a stable means of supporting the component during maintenance activities.

Once the hose replacement work was completed, the loom needed to be laid back onto the ground in its natural configuration to allow alignment and tightening of the new hoses.

The worker removed the hoses that were resting over the stand wheel and attempted to move (push) the boom stand out of the way. While pushing the stand, he felt a click in his right shoulder followed immediately by a sharp stabbing pain. The worker received medical treatment.



MinEx statistics on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 8 years shows 17% of incidents (1,294 incidents) result in occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. You review manual handling tasks to identify opportunities to minimise manual handling using cranes, lifting devices, or alternative work methods.
2. All workers are trained in the correct manual handling techniques to minimise the chance of injury.
3. Before conducting any irregular task, workers discuss the task, identify hazards and ensure appropriate controls are in place before commencing that task.

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