

# NZ Safety Alert

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

March 2019

## Damaged power cable

A worker picked up a grinder and plugged it into the power socket. When the grinder wouldn't start the worker inspected the cable to find that there were exposed live electrical wires in the cable. The worker immediately disconnected the cable from the power and cut off the plug so that the grinder could not be used.

The grinder had been previously damaged and put away without being isolated by cutting off the plug.

Pressure release (high pressure, electricity, explosive atmospheres) are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Mechanical errors from improperly used or malfunctioning mining tools (such as safety lamps or electrical equipment) are common causes of fatality and serious injury.



### You need to ensure that:

1. All electrical leads, power tools etc. are visually inspected prior to use to ensure they are fit for purpose.
2. Electrical leads are tested and tagged in accordance with Electrical Safety Regulations and Original Equipment Manufacturer specifications.
3. Equipment with damaged electrical cables are immediately removed from service and isolated to ensure they cannot be used.
4. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 15 months to Sept 2018 shows that 6% of all incidents (62 incidents) result from pressure release, half of which involved electricity.**

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