

# NZ Safety Alert

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

August 2019

## Reports of misfires in NZ increase

A worker was excavating shot rock in the pit when he found an unexploded booster and detonator in the muckpile. The shotfirer was called to investigate and found a cut downline. While the picture (right) is not the incident referred to, a similar incident caused serious damage to a digger and could have seriously injured the operator.

There has been a sharp increase in reported misfires to WorkSafe in recent weeks which could be a result of better reporting, but also is a wakeup call to ensure you are adequately managing and supervising drilling and blasting activities at your site, whether you do the blasting yourselves or employ contractors.

It is also critical to ensure you have a robust misfire procedure in place and that all workers are familiar with the procedure.



### You need to ensure that:

1. All persons comply with the Health & Safety Management system, security plan, blast controls and standard operating procedures.
2. You review blast design processes, to ensure blast designs take into consideration any geological features or other considerations, which may contribute to misfires.
3. Ensure pre-ignition tie-in inspections are conducted so all tie-ins are checked by at least the shotfirer and one other person.
4. Ensure post-blast inspections are properly conducted to identify areas of potential misfires.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 21 months to March 2019 shows that 7% of all incidents (122 incidents) result from pressure release, of which 41 incidents involved explosives.**

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