

NZ Safety Alert

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

January 2020

Excavator falls on its side

An excavator was working on a pad approximately 1 metre high sorting material.

The excavator tracks reached the end of the working bench when the left excavator track either moved onto soft material and/or the end of the track extending beyond the edge of the pad.

As the excavator slewed approximately 100 degrees anti clockwise with boom extended, the excavator became unbalanced and rolled onto the left-hand side of the machine.

The operator was injured. Drug and alcohol testing proved negative.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sept 2019 shows that 30% of all incidents (700 incidents) involve vehicles of which 275 incidents result from loss of control of a vehicle.



You need to ensure that:

1. Working pads are adequately compacted and constructed such that they are at least 1 ½ times the area of the excavator tracks.
2. When working on benches, excavator tracks be parallel to the face and positioned an adequate distance from the edge considering; the stability of the edge in terms of geological structure, blast damage and undercutting.
3. That operators understand Original Equipment Manufacturer operating instructions including; load limits at various boom extension distances, stability parameters, and safe operating procedures.
4. Excavators are fit for the intended purpose (i.e. appropriate machine specifications in terms of size, working load and reach).

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