

NZ Safety Alert

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

December 2019

Excavator uncovers misfire

A digger was moving rock from the quarry pit when the operator saw a detonator and booster in the digger bucket. The operator stopped and advised the quarry manager who advised the current blasting contractor and requested them to check the explosive.

The detonator and booster were from a previous shot over two years ago and were placed in a safe area and this area was isolated off. The blasting contractor gave advice and removed the explosive from the site to be stored in a safe location prior to disposal.

Recently at a different quarry, while excavating rock from a production blast area an operator noticed a booster protruding from the blasted rock. Upon inspection the operator noticed that there was no detonator in the booster.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 7% of all incidents (122 incidents) result from pressure release, 41 of which related to explosives.

You need to ensure that:

1. A misfire procedure is developed and explained to all workers.
2. Workers treat any explosive components found while quarrying after blasting as live and immediately isolate the area and implement the misfire procedure.
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.

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