

# NZ Safety Alert

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

November 2019

## Fall of axle assembly

Two fitters were fitting a 3-tonne front axle assembly onto a loader. A spreader bar was used to allow the correct placement of the two slings on each end of the axle. Each sling was attached to the spreader bar via a 3.2 tonne rated bow shackle.

To centre the axle under the bucket lift arms, the load was picked up and put down multiple times as it was manoeuvred into place. Each time the load was put down the bow shackle on the western end (closest to camera in picture) was undone so the sling could be re-run past each of the loader lift arms before being attached to the spreader bar with the bow shackle again.

Once centred, the axle was being lifted off the cribbage when the west side sling dropped, the spreader bar flung around and landed on top of the loader bucket, and the axle dropped onto the cribbing and then slid off onto the floor.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Where practical, other devices (e.g. skates etc) for moving axles into place are used that do not require the use of repeated lifts.
2. Review lifting processes and where possible replace bow shackles with safety hooks.
3. When lifting ensure that no-one is in the fall zone of the item being lifted.
4. All workers are trained and regularly assessed as competent in safe lifting procedures.
5. You regularly inspect all equipment used for lifting.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 20% of all incidents (352 incidents) result from fall incidents, 109 of which are due to fall of plant.**

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