

NZ Safety Alert

5 February 2021

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

Injury while breaking rock

A worker was using a hammer and bolster to break rock at a quarry when he missed the bolster and hit his wrist, resulting in bruising to his wrist.

The task was early in the workers shift and he admitted to "rushing" the job.

There has been a significant increase in occupational injuries from the use of hand tools and other equipment over the past 18 months.

Many of these have been due to; lack of attention by the worker, use of inappropriate tools and equipment, and unsuitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 39 months to Sept 2020 show 14% of all incidents (457 incidents) result in occupational injury. This is up 2% in the past 12 months.

You need to ensure that:

1. Workers are aware of safe operating procedures and that they take a little more time to conduct tasks using hand tools and other equipment and avoid rushing any task.
2. Suitable and appropriate PPE is used when operating plant and equipment.
3. Plant and equipment used is fit for the intended purpose and is used in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) requirements.

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