

NZ Safety Alert

20 March 2020

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

Loader bucket hits truck

A front-end loader with loaded bucket, moved forward with its bucket raised in preparation of loading the next dump truck. As it did so, it collided with the dump truck that was moving in to be loaded – causing damage to the cab, handrails and platform. The operator of the dump truck was not injured in the collision.

WorkSafe's High Hazard Unit has recently been notified of numerous vehicle interactions involving heavy mobile plant equipment. Visibility is critical when operating any mobile equipment. The bigger the mining machinery is, the harder it is for operators to see around them due to restricted visibility.



You need to ensure that:

1. Controls for managing traffic in working areas is effective in ensuring workers are not exposed to risk of vehicle collision.
2. There is clear communication and visibility between loaders and trucks in working areas.
3. Loaders do not tram material with the bucket raised to a point that it obscures visibility.
4. Operators of mobile equipment are trained and assessed as competent to safely operate all equipment.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sep 2019 shows that 30% of all incidents (700 incidents) involve vehicles, with vehicle collisions being the major cause (399 incidents).

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