

NZ Safety Alert

1 October 2021

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

Squashed finger cutting rock

A worker was operating a rock cutting machine when he squashed his finger between the rock and the cutting surface.

First aid was applied, and the worker was escorted to see a doctor who had the finger x-rayed for a possible fracture.

A number of occupational injuries have occurred where workers are conducting repetitive tasks over longer periods, which can lead to moments of inattention, fatigue etc.



You need to ensure that:

1. Where possible, workers are rotated through tasks to avoid boredom, fatigue, and lack of attention.
2. Workers take regular breaks from repetitive tasks that require them to pay attention for long periods of time.
3. Work practices are reviewed to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to avoid injury while handling rocks and other heavy items.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 48 months to June 2021 show 14% of all incidents (577 incidents) result in an occupational injury.

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