

# NZ Safety Alert

8 December 2023

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

## Potential fall from height

While observing the crushing/screening operation, a worker noticed a rubber mat on the conveyor feeding the crusher. To prevent it from getting into the crusher, the operator called on the RT to a nearby worker to remove the mat from the conveyor belt before it reached the crusher.

This was not done in time, and another worker was asked to close the feed shutter door. Before the crusher could be shut down, a worker climbed onto the top of the crusher (whilst it was operating) to try and clear the mat which had now blocked the feed chute.

The worker had no fall protection and the grate covering the crusher was not designed to carry the weight of a person.

While no injury occurred, there was potential for a serious incident.

[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 16% of incidents (963 incidents) involve falls of which 368 involved fall of a person.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Appropriate controls are in place to protect workers from falls when working at height such as fall barriers, working platforms, harnesses etc.
2. Risk assessments and safe operating procedures identify what controls are to be in place before commencing work at height.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify fall hazards including during maintenance.

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