

# NZ Safety Alert

12 April 2024

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

## Oil sprays from exhaust

A forklift needed engine oil, but instead 10 litres of hydraulic oil was poured directly into the engine. The engine started rumbling and was shut off after approximately 30 seconds.

The excess oil was sprayed from the exhaust of the forklift and created a large cloud of smoke. Another worker who saw the smoke grabbed a fire extinguisher to put out what he thought was a fire.

No-one was injured in the incident.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 4% of incidents (271 incidents) involve pressure release, of which 97 involved release of hydraulic pressure.

### You need to ensure that:

1. All containers are adequately labelled so that the contents within the container are clearly visible.
2. All plant has clear labelling for refilling of fuel, hydraulic oil, engine oil etc.
3. The location of all fuels, oils etc. is clearly labelled and understood by all workers.
4. Operator manuals are available so that workers can check on requirements for refuelling and topping up oils.

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