

NZ Safety Alert

5 April 2024

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

Worker clearing blockage in crusher

A worker who was on the night shift, was asked by the team lead to clear a blockage in a crusher.

After some time, the team lead went to check on the worker and found him inside of the rails surrounding the crusher, standing on the edge of the crusher, prodding the blockage with a steel bar. The crusher was live at the time.

While no-one was injured, the worker could have fallen into the crusher resulting in very serious, if not fatal injuries.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 16% of incidents (979 incidents) involve falls, of which 379 involved fall of a person.

You need to ensure that:

1. Crushers have guards or barriers that preclude entry while they are operating. Interlocks should ensure the crusher stops if anyone enters past the barrier.
2. All maintenance tasks are risk assessed and appropriate controls put in place prior to commencing the task.
3. Mechanical devices such as rock breakers are used to clear blockages in crushers.

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