

NZ Safety Alert

3 July 2020

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

Falls result in serious knee injuries

A worker was walking up a stockpile to access the excavator parked on it. When he arrived at the top of the pile, he felt his knee give way and pop out of the socket. This caused the worker to fall off the stockpile.

The following week an excavator operator was climbing out of his machine, when one foot became wedged against a rock, causing the operator to lose balance and fall over. As he fell his body twisted and the knee dislocated.

Although both injuries occurred in different locations and under different circumstances – both injuries shared the common outcome for the type of injury and both workers were given a minimum of two months off work.



You need to ensure that:

1. Operators remove excavators from pads and stockpiles when not in use, so that operators can enter and exit on solid ground.
2. Workers avoid walking or climbing on muck piles, stockpiles or other loose material.
3. You review all access, egress and other areas where workers are required to walk to ensure fall hazards are identified and managed.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 17% of all incidents (452 incidents) result from falls, 215 of which result from fall of a person.

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