

NZ Safety Alert

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

December 2019

Truck rollover during tipping

A subcontractor was delivering a truck and trailer load of rock to a site. He tipped the trailer load of rock successfully, then manoeuvred and jack-knifed the trailer to tip the truck at the edge of a drop-off.

He engaged the PTO to lift the truck hoist and at the same time the driver engaged the clutch. As he released the clutch, the truck jerked and jumped backwards resulting in him losing control and traction.

The driver removed his seatbelt and jumped clear. The truck continued backwards, rolling down the face edge and coming to rest on the bench below the road in an upside down position.

It appears that the truck was inadvertently left in reverse gear and there was no exclusion zone at tipping face.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 29% of all incidents (502 incidents) involve vehicles, 211 of which result from a loss of control of a vehicle.

You need to ensure that:

1. When tipping over drop-offs, a stop bund is established at the tip point or the truck tips short and material is pushed over by a loader, dozer or excavator.
2. An exclusion zone is established around tipping areas to reduce exposure to workers from falling plant or material.
3. Tip sites are regularly inspected for edge protection, ground stability, uneven surfaces and other tip hazards.
4. Operators are trained and assessed as competent in safe tipping and managing tip sites.

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