

NZ Safety Alert

21 August 2020

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

Uncontrolled movement of truck

A customer's truck pulled into the tarping bay area to tie down his tarpaulins before leaving a quarry. This area is on a downward gradient and as the driver got out of his truck, he accidentally released the parking brake. The truck rolled into the rear end of the truck and trailer which was parked in front of him.

The area contains a bathroom facility and office block and drivers and others are frequently on foot. As a result, this could have easily resulted in a severe injury.

Far too many incidents occur due to mobile equipment not being stable when parked or not in use.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 30% of all incidents (763 incidents) involved mobile plant and vehicles, 316 of which resulted from loss of control of a vehicle.

You need to ensure that:

1. You review parking areas to ensure they are adequately bunded and designed so that vehicles park side by side.
2. All vehicles are fundamentally stable before operators exit the vehicle. This may include backing vehicles into a depression, the use of chocks, ensuring ground is level where possible, and that braking systems are fully engaged.
3. Mobile equipment operators, including contractors, are trained and assessed as competent to use all equipment they are operating.

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