

# NZ Safety Alert

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

December 2018

## Loss of control of loader

While driving a front-end loader down a ramp, the operator experienced problems with the gears. He bumped the controls causing the bucket to suddenly lower bringing the loader to a sudden stop. The driver was not wearing his seatbelt and was thrown into the windscreen, hitting his head.

A number of recent similar incidents have identified loss of concentration, operator distractions, poor maintenance on vehicles, and lack of operator awareness as major contributing factors to incidents involving loss of control of a vehicle.

Despite compelling evidence to support the fact that wearing a seatbelt will give the operator protection in the event of loss of control of his vehicle, in many of the reported incidents operators were not wearing seatbelts putting themselves in danger of serious injury or death.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Procedures are in place to ensure operators of mobile equipment wear seatbelts at all times while operating the equipment. Training, awareness, supervision and possibly disciplinary action will need to be used to ensure compliance.
2. Operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.
3. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations.
4. Lessons from incidents, including learnings are shared with all workers.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 15 months to Sept 2018 shows that 13% of all incidents (156 incidents) result from the loss of control of a vehicle.**

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