

# NZ Safety Alert

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

March 2019

## Welding slag injury

A worker was welding when a small piece of slag dropped down the front of his boot and burned his sock. He was able to remove the boot and slag before suffering burns to his skin.

Serious burn injuries have occurred in similar situations, with a worker experiencing serious burns to his scrotum when a piece of slag dropped down inside his overalls which were not zipped up properly.

Recent MinEx incident data has shown a marked increase in occupational injuries, many of which have been as a result of inadequate or ineffective personal protective equipment.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Adequate and effective Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is readily available for all workers.
2. PPE is appropriate for the particular task being carried out. PPE should fit comfortably.
3. Workers are trained and competent in the use and purpose of PPE.
4. Regular inspections are conducted to ensure PPE is being used appropriately.

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 18 months to Dec 2018 shows that 11% of all incidents (153 incidents) result in an occupational injury, with hand injuries the major contributor.**

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