

## Worker falls from track crusher

A worker was preparing to start washing down a mobile crusher when he noticed some larger rocks on the machine. He climbed up onto the track using the mounted steps and began removing the stones. When the worker had removed the stones he turned around and began to walk along the track. In attempting to pull up his wet weather pants he lost his balance and fell to the ground. He sustained a fractured hip, requiring surgery to insert a plate and screws and remove tiny bone fragments.

Wet weather gear (bib wet weather overalls pictured) were constricting and tight on movement.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the now eight fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, five of them were a result of falls. Recent research from Australia, which covered extractives industry fatalities from 16 countries world-wide identified that 34% of fatalities are a result of falls, with objects falling on people being the dominant cause.



### You need to ensure that:

1. Fall hazards such as trip hazards and areas where workers can fall from height are identified in risk assessments.
2. Adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the fall hazards identified.
3. Ensure appropriate well-fitting PPE is supplied for all work, particularly in wet weather.
4. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations

**MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 15 months to Sept 2018 shows that 24% of all incidents (242 incidents) result from falls, half of which are fall of person.**

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