

Worker falls from truck body

A visiting truck driver was climbing a ladder on the trailer of his truck to put the tarp roller handle into position. The handle did not position correctly, and the driver slipped, falling from the bin onto the ground. Injuries sustained included loss of consciousness and bruising to the ribs.

The driver's fall was observed by another worker staff and first response measures were taken. The driver was taken to the medical centre for treatment.

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 slope stability, unsecured tools, screens etc., 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 all visitors, contractors and their employing companies understand the need to use industry best practice when working around their vehicles.
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.