

NZ Safety Alert

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

November 2019

Worker fall from conveyor frame

While performing a screen change, a worker slipped from a conveyor frame falling approximately 2m making contact with guarding and a steel frame (used for hanging hoses) during the fall. The employee sustained a fractured rib and bruising. First aid was applied, and employee taken to A&E for assessment.

The work method for the screen change had been used for a number of years. A fall from height risk had not previously been identified.

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.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 20% of all incidents (352 incidents) result from fall incidents, 167 of which are due to fall of person.



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. Any requirement to leave established access ways or platforms (including crossing handrails or any other barriers) to perform maintenance or any other activities, are risk assessed.
4. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations.

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