

NZ Safety Alert

25 September 2020

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

Worker injures ankle in fall

A worker was carrying equipment across the yard when she fell to the ground injuring her ankle. The area where she fell was level and free of rocks and/or potholes.

The worker was taken to the medical centre where x-rays identified a badly sprained ankle. Further medical assessment determined that the worker has a weak ankle and treatment will continue.

Falls are a major cause of fatalities in the extractives sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. Of the eight fatalities in the extractives sector since 2011, five of them were a result of falls.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 33 months to Mar 2020 show 18% of all incidents (486 incidents) result from falls, 232 of which result from fall of a person.

You need to ensure that:

1. Pre-employment medicals are conducted to determine any pre-existing conditions that could impact on a workers' ability to safely carry out their tasks.
2. You review all access, egress, and other areas where workers are required to walk to ensure fall hazards are identified and managed, particularly during cold (ice) and/or wet weather (slippery surfaces) conditions.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify potential fall hazards, and unsafe walking areas.

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