

NZ Safety Alert

12 June 2020

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

Fall of ground damages excavator

While descaling a tank, a 1.8 tonne open cab excavator fitted with FOP (falling object projection) dislodged a 1 metre section of scale from the wall.

The piece of scale slid down the boom before impacting the left-hand corner of the excavator cabin roof and the guard rail. A smaller section of scale broke off and came to rest on the outside of the entry hatch.

There were no injuries sustained by the excavator operator.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 30 months to Dec 2019 show 18% of all incidents (452 incidents) result from falls, 99 of which result from a fall of ground.

You need to ensure that:

1. You review cleaning and scaling procedures to ensure workers are not exposed to fall hazards.
2. All workers are trained and regularly assessed as competent in cleaning and scaling procedures.
3. All activities are adequately supervised, including workplace inspections and task observations.

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