

NZ Safety Alert

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

November 2019

Dangerous access to crusher

A labour hire worker was trying to shut the bin door over a crusher from the walkway around the crusher. He experienced difficulty and called for help from the contract engineer via the RT.

The contract engineer climbed over the handrail and stood on the brackets supporting the chute, while straddling the chute to access the lever to close the bin door. The crusher was operating at the time.

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.



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 poor access 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 including appropriate exclusion zones and no-go areas.
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 and where possible eliminated.
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.