

NZ Safety Alert

23 July 2021

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

Near miss - Crane wedge and socket

A hire crane was on site when the wire rope pulled through the terminal end wedge and socket.

The investigation found that the wedge and socket were not a pair, and the wedge was too wide. It did not put adequate clamping pressure on the rope.

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



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 45 months to Mar 2021 show 16% of all incidents (608 incidents) involve falls, of which 5% (192 incidents) involved fall of equipment.

You need to ensure that:

1. Contract operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.
2. Equipment is fit for purpose and operated in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) requirements.
3. You consider having the terminal ends on hired cranes pulled apart to ensure that the wedge is correct for the socket and the wedge is properly set before use.

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