

NZ Safety Alert

10 September 2021

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

Injury to hand while changing cutting edge

A worker was asked to change the cutting edge on a wheel loader, which required some bolts to be removed.

As the worker started loosening the bolts, one dropped down and was not sitting in the locked position anymore. The worker tried to push the bolt up from below so he could undo the bolt the rest of the way.

While doing this he accidentally pressed the trigger on the rattle gun resulting in the bolt spinning and slicing through the leather glove he was wearing. He sustained cuts to his finger.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 48 months to June 2021 show 14% of all incidents (577 incidents) result in occupational injury.



You need to ensure that:

1. Safe operating procedures developed for maintenance tasks include the use of the most appropriate tools for all tasks and adequate set-up of the work site.
2. Workplace inspections include behaviour and task identification to ensure tasks are carried out safely.
3. PPE is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and have the correct PPE for the tasks being conducted.

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