

NZ Safety Alert

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

January 2020

"We have always done it this way"

- A driver approached the stop sign and did not brake (no lights to indicate braking) and continued through as if it was a give way sign.
- A driver "jumped" out of his truck and twisted his ankle in a pothole.
- Various drivers have been coming in and out of the quarry without calling up and loaders are unaware they are in the quarry.
- A contractor 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.



Despite the development of site rules, safe work procedures and risk assessments, workers continue to do work the **"way they have always done it"**.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sept 2019 shows that 12% of all incidents (274 incidents) result from breach of procedure.

You need to ensure that:

1. There is adequate supervision, workplace inspections, and review of risk controls to ensure work is conducted safely.
2. You review all work practices to ensure "actual" work is in accordance with your H&S system. This may require review of your documented procedures and risk assessments.
3. You review the safety culture or behaviour at your site/s. You may be surprised at what is actually going on!!
4. There is regular communication with all workers and that leaders make clear their requirements for safe work.
5. You avoid implementing "safety rules" that regularly need to be broken in order to get work done.

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