

NZ Safety Alert

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

21 May 2021

Trespassers on site

While loading a dump truck near a riverbed, an excavator operator slewed around and noticed a child close to the digger door approximately 7 metres away. The operator spoke to the child who asked for a cigarette for his mother.

The worker had noticed a van parked on the riverbank earlier and had suspected the van was there overnight. At about 9am a mother and her 5 children emerged from the van.

River extraction, where public access is permitted, represents a significant hazard and while the public do not see themselves as trespassing, they are on a mine site and are captured by the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 42 months to Dec 2020 show 30% of all incidents (1,044 incidents) involve vehicles, of which 33 incidents involved potential collisions with pedestrians.

You need to ensure that:

1. Where practical, sites are secure and restrict access to trespassers.
2. Extreme care is taken where quarrying operations interact with the public and that the mining area is barricaded to restrict access.
3. Appropriate signs are clearly visible to alert the public to the hazards present in the quarrying area.

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