

NZ Safety Alert

28 May 2021

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

Broken link arm on loader

A front-end loader was lifting blocks and stacking them to one side ready to load onto the transporter.

As the loader was lowering the blocks to the ground, the weight released off the lifting chain and the end of the link arm broke off from the crowd pin.

The broken end of the link arm projected into the air before it landed on the ground 9 metres away from the loader.

An engineering inspection found there was excessive wear in the bush, and that the pin that inserts through the link arm was worn causing movement of up to 10mm as the loader bucket rolled backward and forward.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 42 months to Dec 2020 show 16% of all incidents (576 incidents) involve falls, of which 5% (176 incidents) involved fall of equipment.

You need to ensure that:

1. Exclusion zones are established for every lift to ensure no-one is in the fall zone or line of fire.
2. Prestart checks on loaders include the link arm and crowding of the bucket to check for excessive movement.
3. Maintenance checks on mobile equipment are conducted in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturers requirements.

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