

NZ Safety Alert

15 September 2023

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

Worker fatally struck by excavator

A worker on foot at a contractor's yard in Otago was fatally struck by an excavator recently. Details have not yet been released and WorkSafe are investigating the incident.

While not at a mine or quarry, this incident is a stark reminder of the hazards of people interacting with heavy machinery.

This was the first of two workplace fatalities in a single week, with another worker fatally injured in a forestry incident.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 30% of incidents (1,784 incidents) involve vehicles, of which 870 resulted from a vehicle collision.

You need to ensure that:

1. All mobile plant stops operating when anyone is on foot in a work area.
2. Workers and visitors are aware of the hazards presented by operating heavy equipment.
3. Positive communication is established with working mobile equipment for anyone who enters the work area of such equipment.
4. Wherever possible, light vehicles and pedestrians are separated from heavy equipment.

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