

NZ Safety Alert

3 November 2023

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

Worker injured during maintenance

A quarry worker was replacing a broken blow bar on a crusher. The worker removed the old bars and proceeded to clean up the wear surfaces using a grinder and wire brush.

While wiping down the area he accidentally sliced his left wrist on a sharp spur that had formed on the centre wedge. The spur could have formed through the movement of the broken bar during operation of the crusher. The cut required stitches.

While it was known that the centre bar was broken, the workers continued to operate the crusher monitoring and regularly tightening the centre wedge.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 15% of incidents (874 incidents) have resulted in occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. You check all wear surfaces prior to maintenance to identify hazards such as sharp spurs and remove them before conducting maintenance.
2. Maintenance is prioritised once broken or worn parts are identified.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify broken or damaged equipment which should be repaired or replaced immediately where practical.

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