

# NZ Safety Alert

23 October 2020

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

## Cutting edge falls injuring worker

A worker was changing the cutting edge on a loader bucket. As he removed the last bolt the cutting edge fell to the ground, bounced, and struck him on the leg, causing a graze and a bruise.

At the time, the worker didn't have anything in place to control the fall or release of the unbolted edge. The investigation determined that the usual practice was to allow the edge to fall to the ground.

The injured worker visited the doctor for an assessment of his leg and no further treatment was required. The investigation determined there was potential for a more serious injury.



MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 33 months to March 2020 show 18% of all incidents (486 incidents) result from falls, 146 of which are fall of equipment.

### You need to ensure that:

1. Appropriate controls are in place to control fall of equipment during maintenance e.g. forklift tyres or timber blocks under equipment being unbolted.
2. You train workers in safe plant maintenance procedures and regularly assess them as competent to maintain all plant.
3. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify work areas where there are fall hazards and what, if any, exposure workers have to these hazards.

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