

NZ Safety Alert

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

28 February 2020

Plant operated without guard



A worker removed the rear guard on a feeder to clear rocks from the feeder and forgot to re-attach the guard when he had completed clearing the rocks.

Another worker, who was relatively inexperienced, operated the feeder the following day without the guard attached. He was “unaware of the need to attach the guard or to not operate plant without guards attached”.

Entanglement in plant is one of the major contributors to deaths in the workplace across the world, including in the extractives sector.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 27 months to Sept 2019 shows that 5% of all incidents (124 incidents) involve entanglement.

You need to ensure that:

1. Plant is not operated without appropriate guards in place.
2. Pre-start checks are conducted on plant to ensure all guards are fitted before the plant is operated.
3. Workers are trained and assessed as competent to operate plant including safety features and safe operating procedures.

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