

NZ Safety Alert

6 November 2020

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

Worker falls while exiting loader

While washing his loader, a worker was standing on the step near the back of the cab washing the roof. Once he finished, he climbed backwards down the ladder (with 3 points of contact). When he got to the bottom step his foot slipped and he fell backwards, hitting his head.

When exiting mobile plant, the operator's visibility is reduced while descending the ladder, limiting the ability to detect hazards which may cause slips.

Most of the body weight is supported by the feet moving down the ladder and the hands play a crucial role in fall prevention. If the hands are unable to maintain contact with the ladder, a slip will probably result in a fall.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 42 months to June 2020 show 17% of ALL incidents resulted in falls (513 incidents), 244 of which involve fall of a person.



You need to ensure that:

1. Workers take caution when ascending and descending to and from cabs of mobile equipment, including maintaining 3 points of contact at all times.
2. Pre-start checks on mobile equipment include checking of rungs to ensure they are securely attached to the ladder.
3. Designated parking areas are free of hazardous conditions such as uneven terrain, rocks, slippery surfaces, and contaminants on the ladders.

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