



QRS SAFETY ALERT

Dated 17 March 2023

Excavator Exclusion Safety Distances

Incident

A QRS staff member was part of a crew tasked with slash removal. A log from the slash pile was dislodged and swung around and hit a staff member in the leg. The staff member sustained a broken bone in his ankle.

Contributing Factors

Preliminary findings indicate that:

- Staff were well outside the safety exclusion zone of the excavator at 18 meters.
- Staff were 3 meters from the piled debris, where flood damage debris was being placed by the excavator.
- Debris removed by excavator fell randomly and in different directions causing movement of piled debris.

Required Actions:

- QRS recommends that during the debris removal process, staff other than the excavator operator are outside the swing arc of the excavator and a minimum 10 meters from the removed debris pile.
- Prior to task commencement a risk assessment must be conducted, taking into account safe exclusion distances from operating machines for staff when removing debris. Exclusion distance will be determined by the length of the excavator swing arc plus 5 meters.

Please read, print this Safety Alert and discuss with staff at your daily tailgate meeting and at weekly shed meetings.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--|------------------|
| Issued by | Paul Eaglesome |  | Date: 17/03/2023 |
| Approved by | Peter Wairau |  | Date: 17/03/2023 |

