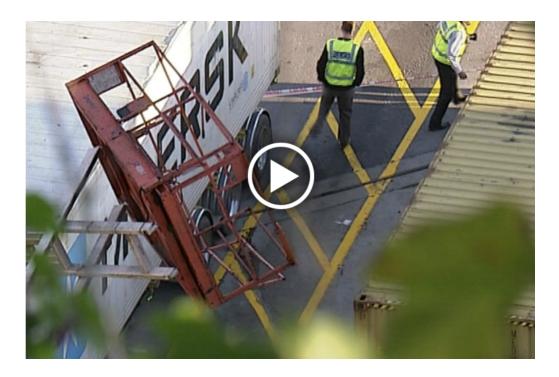


Long-Serving Firefighter Dies In Port Tragedy

Friday 29 Aug 2014 9:40 a.m.



Tributes are flowing for a long-serving volunteer firefighter and Maritime Union branch president who was killed in an accident at Lyttelton Port. Brad Fletcher, 40, died in the workplace accident yesterday, the union said.

National secretary Joe Fleetwood says his death was a great shock. "Brad was a highly respected figure in Lyttelton and within the Maritime Union, and the union would be supporting his workmates and family," he said.

Mr Fletcher was the union's Lyttelton branch president. Police said the man died at the scene after a scissor lift fell over. He was the only person on the machine and is the third person to die at Lyttelton Port in the past 12 months.

The Facebook page of Lyttelton Volunteer Fire Brigade has many tributes to Mr Fletcher, including a post "at the end of the day some of us may never put our boots on again". Mr Fletcher had competed in the annual stair climbing charity event for firefighters at Sky Tower in Auckland and had been a volunteer for 23 years.

Lyttelton Port said it was saddened by the tragedy and was supporting Mr Fletcher's family and colleagues.

"All staff at LPC are deeply distressed by what has occurred and our thoughts are with the family and friends at this time," chief executive Peter Davie said. "This tragic accident deeply affects everyone in our port community."

The death has been referred to the coroner and Worksafe NZ is investigating.