

Safety and health alert

02/04 Excavator bucket not secured

Incident

A young demolition worker sustained serious injuries when he was struck in the back by a bucket from an excavator. The bucket came off a quick-hitch device while the excavator was in the process of slewing, striking the worker.

Factors

Hydraulic pressure normally holds the bucket in place via the brackets of the quick-hitch. A manually applied safety pin ensures the bucket is not inadvertently released in the event hydraulic pressure is not maintained.

Recommendations

- Ensure all attachments such as buckets on excavators are at all times secured and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, including the use of safety pins.
- Buckets operated by trip-type catches shall be bolted or otherwise positively engaged.

Further information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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