

# Safety and health alert

## 04/95 Air trac drilling rig

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### Incident

The mast of a Gardner Denver Air Trac drilling rig dropped onto the operator and crushed him when a bleed plug on the mast dump cylinder was accidentally dislodged, rapidly reducing hydraulic pressure in the cylinder.

### Factors

1. The bleed plug was located on the underside of the mast dump cylinder, allowing it to strike the trac pads when moving the boom.
2. The controls were located so that the operator had to lean under the mast to operate them.

### Recommendations

1. Owners of Air Tracs should check all bleed plugs or similar fittings to ensure they are not exposed to contact with other parts of the machine.
2. Owners of Air Tracs should ensure that operators have safe access to the controls under all circumstances, including emergencies. Multiple operation controls may be required for some functions.

### Further Information

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

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