Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™

TOPIC: Safety while using quick couplers

Employers using hydraulic excavators with quick coupling devices can protect employees from the unintended release of attachments by:

– Inspecting all quick couplers to determine if they are subject to unexpected release hazards. Determine whether a manually installed locking pin and installation procedures (or other retrofitting methods) have been provided by the manufacturer.

– If appropriate, obtaining and installing retrofits recommended by the manufacturer, including positive locking pins and other devices that need to be manually installed.

– Using an independent secondary system to retain the bucket/work tool from falling, in the event of a failure of the primary system. The secondary system can be manual or automatic with a verification procedure for the user to check for proper attachment.

– Considering the use of newer models of quick couplers that have been specifically designed to prevent the unintended release of attachments.

– Following the manufacturer’s recommendations for maintenance and inspection of the quick coupler to prevent a malfunction of the quick coupler that could cause an unintended release of the attachments.

– Training employees to follow the manufacturer’s instruction in the Operation’s Manual: the proper use of quick couplers; making visual inspections; procedures for engaging attachments; and methods for verifying connections.

– Requiring employees to use the proper procedures for engaging excavation attachments and incorporating the procedures into the company’s safety and health program.

Discussion Date: ____________________

Employee Participants:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state, or federal statutes or regulations.

SAFETY.CAT.COM™
http://safety.cat.com/toolbox