

TOOLBOX TALKS

Quick Coupler Safety

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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:

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