

NNTP SITE SPECIFIC SAFETY ALERT

Insufficient Time Given for Excavator's Quick Hitch to Engage Causes Bucket to Drop.



Excavator involved in the incident and the depression in the stockpile is where its' bucket dropped.

What happened?

- A subcontractor was operating a 23 tonne Doosan excavator to pick up hard fill. His spotter was 20 metres away on a haul road stopping traffic.
- Nobody else was in the area.
- The excavator operator raised his bucket 1 ½ metres off the ground and its 1 tonne bucket fell off into a hard fill stock pile.

Why did it happen and what did we learn?

- The operator grabbed a bucket and went for a scoop of hard fill before its quick hitch had enough time to engage.
- The engagement process is automatic and takes about 4 seconds.
- The operator should have waited until the quick hitch's continuously sounding alarm stopped sounding to indicate that it was fully engaged.
- The Operator reported the incident.

Actions required and Safety Advice

- The operator stopped work, pulled his team together and held a safety meeting.
- The incident was discussed at a NNTP pre-start.
- Be patient, don't rush and give excavator quick hitch mechanisms time to engage.
- This incident was a reminder to everyone why we have safety rules such as:
 - Never stand under a raised load or excavator bucket.
 - Never enter an excavator's slew zone.
- If we unfailingly observe these rules nobody will ever be hurt.

For further information contact

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