

NNTP SITE SPECIFIC SAFETY ALERT

EXCAVATOR OPERATOR LACERATES LEG ON BLADE



What happened?

- An operator exited a 1.7 tonne Hitachi excavator with its seat facing a raised stabilising blade as shown in the photograph above.
- As he stepped down his legs entered the space between the blade and the body of the excavator causing him to stumble.
- His right leg was lacerated when it made forceful contact with the stabilizing blade's top edge.
- The laceration required 14 stitches to close it and he needed crutches to assist him to walk.

Why did it happen and what did we learn?

- The operator did not position the blade behind him to eliminate the blade as a hazard when he got out of the excavator. This was the first poor choice he made.
- His second mistake was not to ground the blade as a safety message displayed on the excavator advised operators to do.

Actions taken and Safety Advice

- All plant operators are reminded of the requirement to exit plant with the cab parallel with the tracks with the blade position to the rear and to use the tracks and/or the provided steps to exit safely.
- All plant operators are reminded of the requirement to ensure that when a stabilising blade is present that it must be lowered to the ground prior to exiting the excavator.

For further information contact

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