

Forest Industry Safety Alert

Excavator bucket damages vehicle during loading

Location: Campbell River, BC

Date: August 21, 2017

Incident Summary: A bucket fell off the boom of an excavator while loading chains into the back of a pick-up truck.

After unloading bridges the excavator operator attached a bucket with a quick change hitch to the boom and proceeded to lift the chains into the truck. While uncurling the bucket over the truck it fell off the boom damaging the tailgate and jockey box of the pickup truck.

All workers were in the clear a safe distance from the excavator. No injuries occurred.

Learnings and Suggestions:

- When working around mobile equipment maintain a safe distance from the activity. Confirm with the equipment operator where the designated safe area is located prior to commencing the activity.
- Excavator operators need to ensure buckets are secure by following appropriate safe work procedures. As a recommended best practice ask the operator to ensure that the bucket is fully secure before use around workers, vehicles, and other equipment.
- To promote awareness on the safe use of quick hitches please review the information in the following safety alert link from Australia. https://www.artc.com.au/library/Safety-Alert_2012-02-01.pdf
- WorkSafeBC also has a tool box meeting guide for working safely with mobile equipment. <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/toolbox-meeting-guides/working-safely-with-mobile-equipment?lang=en>



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