

Sideboom Stick Collapse

Safety Alert

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Enform

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Description of Incident:

A sideboom's engine was started to warm it up during cold weather. The operator verified that the sideboom was locked out, but did not notice that the bolts on the hydraulic lockout mechanism were loose. The operator placed an umbrella over the seat and left the sideboom unmanned while the engine warmed up. The placement of the umbrella engaged the load-line lever and the loose screws on the lock-out mechanism allowed the lock to fail. Approximately 27 minutes later a nearby work crew observed the load line slowly spooling in, causing the stick to bend backwards over the canopy and subsequently break. The stick, hook and blocks fell into the cab of the sideboom.



Loose Hydraulic Lockout Mechanism



Damaged Sideboom

What Caused It?

Failure of the hydraulic lockout mechanism combined with unintentional engagement of the load-line lever.

Contributing Factors Included:

- The inspection checklist did not include the lockout mechanism.
- Cold weather start-up procedures had not been established.
- The pan-headed flat drive screws used were inadequate to secure the hydraulic lockout mechanism.

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- Contact manufacturer to replace screws on the hydraulic lockout mechanism with bolts and locking hardware.
- Revise daily inspection checklist to include inspections of the hydraulic lock out mechanism.
- Develop and implement cold weather equipment starting procedures.
- Investigate the use of umbrella stand holders or alternate weather protection.

By industry, for industry

