

TOOLBOX TALKS

QUICK COUPLER

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

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 and Maintenance Manual (OMM): 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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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.