

Safety Alert

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Alert

On June 26th, 2017, a mechanic and a helper were working together to install a hammer attachment to an excavator. The bucket had been successfully removed and the crew was in the process of driving in the second pin utilizing a 10# sledge hammer to secure the hammer attachment. While driving the pin a small shard broke off the end of the pin and struck the mechanic in his right eye causing immediate blindness to the eye. At the time of the incident, the mechanic had pulled his glasses down to get a better view of the alignment.

The employee underwent surgery to remove the foreign body which was lodged deep into the back of the eye but they were unsuccessful. Thus, it is unlikely that the employee will ever regain site in the effected eye.

The above incident demonstrates the extreme importance of wearing PPE and utilizing the right tools for the job.

Actions Required Immediately

When working on equipment, crews should:

- Assess each task, determine potential hazards that are involved, determine ways to lessen the hazards, select the right tools for the task, and determine appropriate PPE requirements.
- Maintain good communications with each involved crew member.
- Utilize your Stop Work Obligation when you see that something is not right.
- Utilize excavators equipped with a quick connect system when possible if the changing out of attachments will be necessary.
- Watch for pinch points.
- Always watch footing placement and maintain 3-points of contact when getting on or off the equipment. NEVER jump from equipment.



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