



# SAFETY ALERT

## PROPERTY DAMAGE – PIPE LAYER CONTINUES TO BOOM IN CATEGORY: OTHER (ONSHORE) CONTACT LEDCOR HSE FOR MORE DETAILS

### Summary of Events:

A mechanic had finished installing the boom stick on a Caterpillar 572G pipe layer. While parking the pipe layer, the mechanic noticed that the stick had continued to boom in resulting in the stick bending. The mechanic immediately inspected both winches to see if they were still pulling in but at this point they had stopped. The joystick was also immediately looked at, but it was not engaged at the time. The mechanic then shut off the engine and let out the boom line to relieve tension on the boom stick. The pipe layer was shut down and tagged out for investigation.



During the investigation, it was found that the kick out pin was only functional at low idle. It would not work at a higher idle. Further investigation showed that the kick out pin was not functioning at higher idle because the orifice on the main valve that regulates the flow of hydraulic fluid to the kick out pin was rebuilt improperly. Further investigation also showed that the boom line control lever would stick in the engaged position due to the bolts on the lever catching on the top metal control panel.

Note: The kick out was tested at low idle prior to parking the Pipe layer and it was found to be functional.



### Major Contributing Factors

**Using defective equipment:** Previous servicing of the unit left the main valve orifice installed incorrectly, rendering the kick out inoperative with the throttle over idle.

**Failure to check/monitor:** The operator did not ensure that the boom line control lever was in neutral prior to moving.

### Immediate Preventative Measures

All Pipe layers in the fleet that had the same hydraulic system were tested for proper kick out response at low and high idle.

The control levers were also tested for the sticking malfunction on all pipe layers.

Additional correctives of investigating a secondary hydraulic or electric bypass system to disabled the boom system will be completed.