

Safety Alert

Parking Brake Release

On 10/26/2018 a tie-in crew was completing a tie-in on the crest of hill in West Virginia. To make the lineup of the two sections, two side-booms were placed on a 19° slope to support and manipulate a section for a final tie-in. As the two sections of pipe were within the welding clamps, the PL87 side boom tractor's parking brake rocker switch was inadvertently struck causing the brakes to release. The movement of the PL87 resulted in the pipe section releasing from the clamps and striking three individuals.

The parking brake system is activated/deactivated via a rocker switch (*Picture 1 & 2*). The rocker switch is protected from inadvertent activation/deactivation by a plastic collar safeguard (*Picture 3 & 4*). In this circumstance, the plastic collar safeguard was not present.



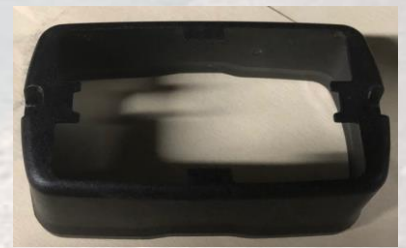
Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

Path Forward

Open cab equipment is exposed to a variety of elements, including direct sunlight. Direct sunlight can induce dry rot and causing damage to plastic materials. It is vital that all safeguards are ensured effective prior to the operation of any type of equipment. *Note: Parking brake rocker switch location varies between models.*

1. Ensure that complete and thorough equipment inspections take place prior to the operation of any equipment.
2. All employees must use Stop Work Authority when deficiencies are discovered.
3. Plastic collar safeguards should be evaluated on all side boom tractors by a competent person.
4. Any safeguards that are defective must cause the equipment to be red tagged until fixed.



Picture 5: Plastic collar safeguard in place



PRICE · GREGORY