

Sideboom Strikes Pickup Truck

Safety Alert

Issue #:07-2016

Enform

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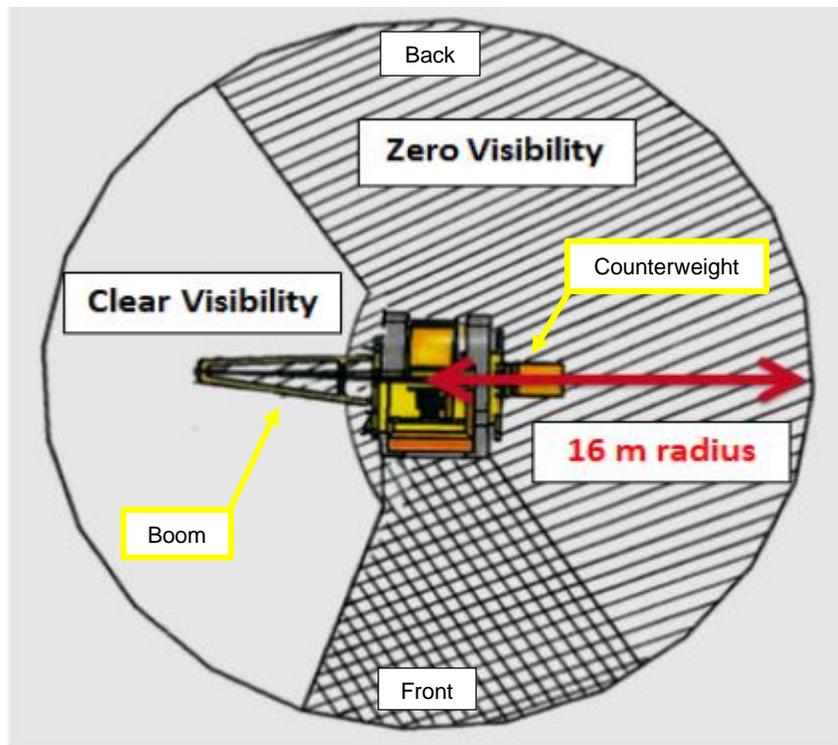
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Description of Incident:

A sideboom operator was rotating a spool of pipe and was unable to observe a pickup truck that approached and parked in the sideboom's blind spot. The pickup truck was parked approximately six meters in front of the sideboom. Once the pipe rotation work was complete the sideboom moved forward and struck the rear corner of the pickup truck.

Sidebooms are essentially a tractor fitted with a boom and a counterweight. As a result, the operator of a sideboom has reduced visibility compared to a tractor or bulldozer. This is especially true for areas at the back of the sideboom or on the counterweight side of the boom.



Sideboom Operator's Blind Spots

What Caused It?

The pickup truck was located in the sideboom operator's blind spot.

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Contributing Factors Included:

- There was no communication between the sideboom operator and the driver of the pickup truck.
- The pickup truck was parked in close proximity to the sideboom.

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- The safe limit of approach for sidebooms has been set at 16 metres (~53 feet).
- Sideboom operators must communicate with workers on the ground prior to any equipment being moved. Trained spotters should be used to physically check all blind spots and provide a signal to the operator that it is safe to move equipment. In the absence of trained spotters all operators must physically verify the absence of any hazards by dismounting the sideboom and checking before moving equipment.
- A training program was developed on sideboom approach distances and is mandatory for all personnel working with or around sidebooms.
- Proximity detection hardware for sidebooms and other heavy equipment is now being installed.

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