

# Excavator Boom Strikes Worker

Safety Alert

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**Enform**

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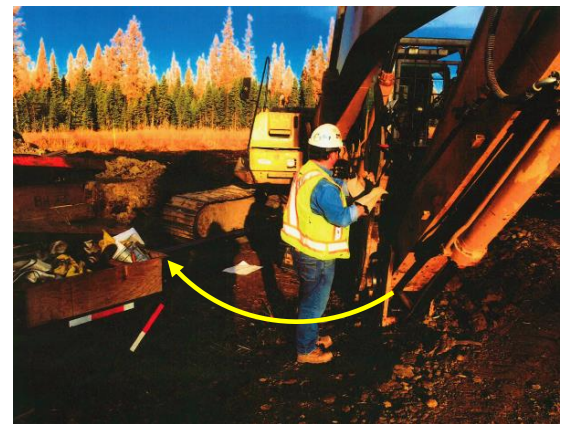
For more information on this event, please contact: [safety@enform.ca](mailto:safety@enform.ca)

## Description of Incident:

A pipeline crew was in the process of changing out a hydraulic hose on an excavator (track hoe). The operator entered the cab of the excavator to depressurize the hose. When the operator sat down his jacket caught on the control stick and engaged it. The operator, not aware that the control stick had been engaged, proceeded to disengage the control lockout lever (safety bar). This resulted in the excavator boom swinging approximately one meter and striking a worker located immediately adjacent to the boom (0.3 meters). The worker was pushed back approximately two meters and fell over the skid sloop located on the ground. The worker received soft tissue bruising and a swollen lip.



Operator jacket engages control stick (re-enactment)



Position of worker when struck by excavator boom and subsequent fall over skid sloop

## What Caused It?

The control stick was unintentionally engaged by the operator.

## Contributing Factors Included:

- Failure to identify hazard
- Lack of situational awareness
- Lockout procedures did not identify hazard
- Poor communication and planning between workers
- Rushing to get work done
- Site congestion
- Heavy loose-fitting winter clothing

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## Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- Update Operators Competency Checklist to include ensuring the control stick is in the neutral position prior to disengaging the control lockout lever (safety bar).
- Develop written procedures to indicate that the control lockout lever cannot be disengaged until all personnel are clear of the hazard zone swing area.

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