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Prevention of Unintended Movement

The unintended operation of equipment is an issue that has been seen in the past as confined mainly to earthmoving equipment and in particular 360 degree excavators, where there have been a number of serious injuries and fatalities.

Problems have centred on controllers catching on operator's clothing or where the operator has stood up in the cab and inadvertently pushed against a controller. This inadvertent operation puts anyone in the vicinity of the machine at risk of being struck by the moving machine.

The Strategic Forum for Construction's Plant Safety Group is engaged in a project to look at this and has extended the scope beyond inadvertent operation of controls to include all situations which lead to unintended movement. Three main situations causing this movement are;



- The inadvertent operation of controls where the operator does not intend to operate the control but, for example, catches their coat sleeve on a control when the machine's hydraulic system is live, resulting in movement;
- Operation of controls where the resulting movement is not as intended, for example meaning to travel forward in an excavator with the superstructure slewed through 180 degrees, resulting in the machine travelling in the opposite direction;
- When safety systems are bypassed, removing the protection they provide against unintended movement.

The aim of the project is the production of guidance on the subject to assist equipment owners, users, operators and trainers. The scope of the project includes all mobile construction equipment, including cranes, but not aerial work platforms.

Research conducted as part of this project indicates that unintended movement affects a wide range of operated equipment, with an analysis of incidents showing that unintended movement events have occurred with telehandlers, loader cranes, rollers and compactors, vacuum excavators,

The CPA Conference 2016 - Understanding and Influencing the Future of Construction Plant Hire.

Following last year's successful event CPA is busy finalising this year's conference which will take place on Wednesday 9th November at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, near St Neots, Cambridgeshire. The conference, held in association with CanTrack, will be covering many key issues and hot topics that are affecting the hire industry - delegates can expect to hear about:

- The Changing Landscape of Skills Supply
- Tideway's Shared Vision for a Complex Project
- HS2 - Supply Chain Health & Safety Standard
- Construction Pipeline Supply & Demand Analysis
- Innovation in Flexible and Local Training Delivery
- Safety - Preventing Unintentional Machine Movement
- Developments in Telematics and Tracking

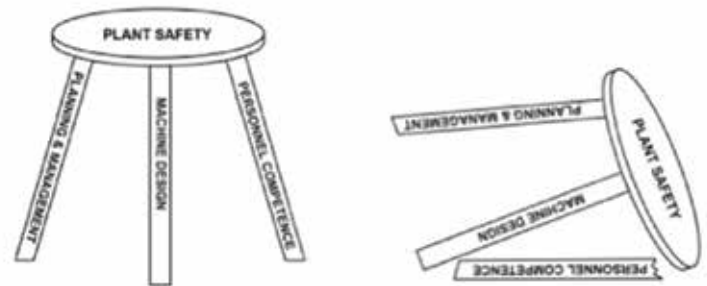
tower cranes and trenchers, as well as 360 degree excavators. The factors contributing to these incidents can be categorised as follows:

- Operator competence
- Pre-use checks
- Operator work station and poor housekeeping
- Lack of supervision
- Poor planning
- Loose clothing
- Persons in the machine's working arc
- Non isolation of controls



- Machine design
- Bypassing of Safety Devices

These can be grouped into three broad categories - Management of equipment operations, machine design and personnel competence. All three are equally important in ensuring that PUMP does not occur and can be compared to the legs of a three-legged stool where if one leg fails, the stool will fall over.



The project is well advanced and it is intended that a draft of the guidance document will be available for public comment later this year.

A separate Plant Safety Group Project in 2010 addressed the issue of people in aerial work platforms being crushed between the platform and a structure. This resulted in the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group guidance document on Avoiding Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform. This guidance provided the foundation for improving the safe use of work platforms, including planning, supervision and operator training. In the intervening six years' changes to the product standard EN 280 and the response of manufacturers has led to the availability of secondary guarding to further improve safe operation and reduce the risk of crushing.

The event will once again have an exhibition area which will include AMI Group, JCB, Kranlyft UK, GenQuip, Higher Concept Software, Datatag, Jaama and AJ Gallagher. JCB is also exhibiting two machines outside the event venue while Kranlyft will be showing three cranes outside and a mini crane inside. AMI Group will have several tracked vehicles on display.



The event is being promoted to construction and civil engineering associations as well CPA members and other bodies in construction, and to public and private sector clients: attendance is open to anyone who has an interest in, or influence over, supplying or procuring construction equipment.

Delegates can register to attend the event via the CPA website www.cpa.uk.net/conference. Ticket price is £54