

SAFETY ALERT #368



Dated: Sunday, 8th NOVEMBER 2009

Title: EVACUATION HAMMER



Evacuation hammer



Incident Description & Details:

A 33 tonne excavator was partially buried by soil slip material. The cab door would not open due to the slip material in contact with the outside of the door. The operator had to break the glass side window to exit the cab. The operator wanted to exit the machine quickly and even though he was experienced he panicked and initially kicked and punched at the glass but the glass did not break. The operator then remembered the evacuation hammer and the glass window only required a tap from this hammer to break this glass. The operator was then able to safely exit the cab.

Recommendations / Lessons:

1. Ensure there is an evacuation hammer fitted to all machines that have an enclosed cab.
2. Ensure operators know the purpose / use of this tool.

Tool box talk on subject required & a little sign should be posted in the cab to identify what the hammer is for "in emergency use hammer to break glass". Emergency procedures should be explained to operator when the equipment is entrusted to his care. There are warning stickers inside most machines telling operators of what to do in case of emergency. Operator should familiarize himself with everything to do with the equipment entrusted to him.