



Failure to Detect Loss of Brake Accumulator Pressure

Recently in Australia, a loader traveling downhill lost its brakes after the engine stalled, causing the operator to lose control. The loader rolled over onto the operator who was crushed between the cab and the ground. It was found that the brake accumulator pressure was too low to provide effective braking, and several of the parking brake components were missing. The brake accumulator pressure and the parking brake provide braking in the event of the engine stopping.

On some loaders, the low brake pressure warning light sender is located in the hydraulic circuit. Therefore, the sensor will not detect a loss of brake accumulator pressure while the engine is running. Although the loss of accumulator pressure has been observed on this loader, it may exist in other pieces of equipment that use this type of braking system.

Best Practices

- Obtain and follow preventative maintenance schedules for your equipment.
- Perform pre-operational inspections before operating equipment according to the equipment manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace any worn or defective components identified during this inspection.
- Contact your equipment dealer for any recall or safety notices and take the necessary corrective actions.
- Maintain a record of the preventative maintenance schedule activities for future reference

