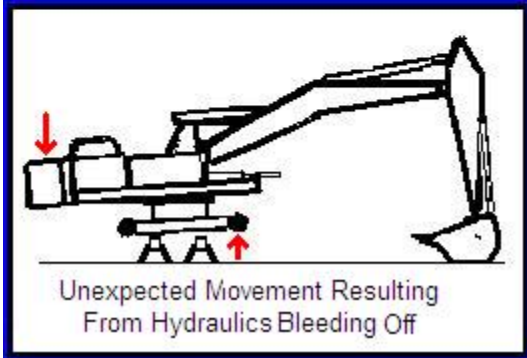
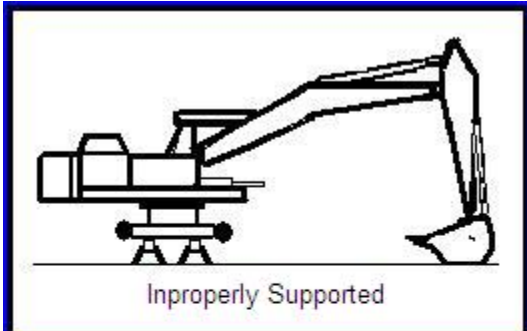




SAFETY HAZARD ALERT Excavator Blocking Issue

Raising a hydraulic excavator to perform maintenance or repair introduces hazards to persons working around the machine. It has been found that repair shops have raised and blocked the entire machine and then lowered

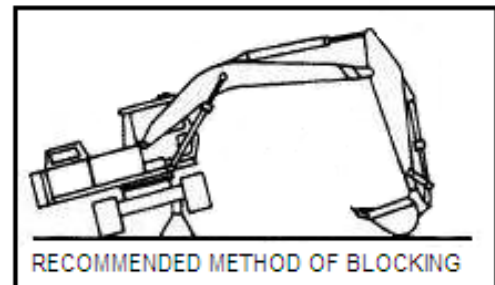


the bucket to the floor to provide stability. As the hydraulics bleed off, the bucket end (front) will in effect, transfer its weight to the counterweight (rear). This will reduce the weight on the front jacks or supports and place more weight on the rear ones. This redistribution of weight can cause the machine to twist or slide.

Remember that hydraulic pressure may bleed off over time, no matter how well maintained, and as a result, unrestrained counterweights can cause the machine to shift from the blocking supports or jack stands. At least two major excavator manufacturers recommend only raising one side when performing maintenance and repair to avoid this possibility entirely.

Best Practices

- Never perform work under raised equipment until it is securely blocked in position. Do not depend on hydraulic systems to hold mobile equipment during repairs or maintenance.
- Obtain and follow the manufacturer's blocking recommendations
- If possible, place the cab structure perpendicular to the track frame before raising the machine and raise one side of the machine.
- Use jackstands or blocks that are properly rated for the job.



Also see:

[Proper Blocking - Safety Idea](#)

[Blocking Raised Equipment - Miner's Tip](#)

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