



SAFETY HAZARD ALERT

Caterpillar 988G/H Unintended Boom Movement

Sudden unintended boom movements have been found with several Caterpillar 988G/H model front-end loaders. This condition was first discovered during the investigation of a recent metal/nonmetal mine fatality.

<http://www.msha.gov/FATALS/2011/FAB11m15.asp>

The CAT 988H loader involved in the accident, when tested cold (approx. 25°F), would operate abnormally. During raising of the loader arms, the arms would continue to rise after the lift control was released. When the operator tried to feather the arms down, the bucket would drop several feet.

Caterpillar has developed new machine warm-up procedures to address the problem. Contact your local Caterpillar service dealer immediately for more information.

Risk to personnel should be evaluated when performing the following:

- First, lifting or lowering objects with anyone in the immediate area poses the risk that the bucket will drop the object and injure personnel.
- Second, when loading trucks, the bucket dropping may cause significant equipment damage and may jolt or injure the truck driver.

Until a fix is determined, administrative controls should be implemented to address the hazard. These controls include:

- Ensure the hydraulic fluid is warm per CAT's Operating Manual.
- Ensure that the operation of the bucket is checked before the machine is put into production work.
- Ensure all personnel are clear of the machine when it is operating.
- Truck operators must remain in the truck cab or a safe distance away while being loaded.
- If any machine, equipment, or tool does not function as designed, immediately remove it from service and contact the manufacturer.
- Ensure equipment operators are fully trained, including all procedures, for the equipment they operate.
- Always use machinery, equipment, and tools within the design capacity intended by the manufacturer.