

ToolBox Talk 194

Faulty Excavator Boom

What Happened?

- Recently, a 5 tonne Bobcat E50 excavator was being operated onsite with an unknown fault. Whilst tracking with the boom in the upright position. The boom made contact with the cab resulting in the window in the roof shattering.



- At the time the front window was in the “up” position which prevented shattered glass hitting the driver
- Two small pieces of glass had been noted in the pre-work checks but a check of the windows had not been undertaken as the Esso Heavy Plant Check Sheet had not been used and not prompted the driver to check.
- Hire company had recently replaced the window but had not properly investigated the root cause. Pressure from hirer made the hire company investigate and realise the problem was due to the boom touching the cab. It is not possible to check for this without damaging the excavator.
- The excavator showed It was within its quarterly service schedule

The Learning:

- Always ensure that the Esso Heavy Plant Check list is used for pre-work checks as it prompts areas to be checked that may not be considered risks by plant operators.
- Feedback any mechanical issues to hire companies and insist on further investigations. This could avoid damage charges being applied.