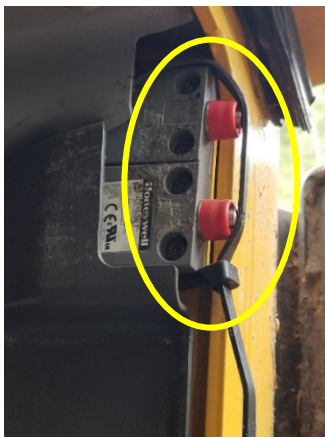


Safety Interlocks Bypassed on Feller Bunchers

Most feller bunchers have a built-in safety interlock device to ensure that the hydraulic system only operates when the cab door is closed. The operator can shut the system off manually with a button, or the interlock device will do it automatically when the cab door is opened. Types of safety mechanisms include buttons that are pressed when the cab door is closed and magnetic sensors.

Bypassing the safety system, by using a cable tie to keep the buttons depressed when the cab door is open or attaching a metal washer to disable a magnetic device, is a common practice.

Manufacturer installed safety devices protect operators and others working around the machine. An unintended bump of the controls, or a new operator or mechanic unaware of a disabled safety mechanism, could lead to a serious injury or incident!



Safety interlock buttons held down with a cable tie.



Buttons released as designed when cab door is open.



Manual system on and off buttons.

Recommendations

- Do not disable or bypass a manufacturer installed safety device.
- Inspect machines to ensure that safety mechanisms have not been disabled or bypassed.

Requirements

WAC 296-54-573(7):

- You must not make any modifications or additions that affect the capacity or safe operation of the equipment without written approval of the manufacturer or a qualified engineer.

WAC 296-54-517(1):

- You must establish and implement written procedures for lockout/tagout to prevent the accidental start up or release of stored energy of machinery that is shut down for repairs, maintenance, or adjustments.

Prepared by WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (WA FACE) program. WA FACE is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant 2U00H008487).