

# FATAL ALERT

A fatal accident occurred Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at approximately 12:10 p.m. at a preparation plant. A 47 year old contract mechanic was fatally injured while attempting to lower the belly pan on a D10N Caterpillar Bulldozer. The victim was positioned under the belly pan removing bolts. The belly pan was not properly blocked and fell suddenly onto the victim.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF BELLY PANS

- A. Ensure machine is in suitable location and away from operating equipment.
- B. Block machine to prevent movement.
- C. Lower blade, ripper or other attachments to ground level.
- D. Place "DO NOT OPERATE" tag in the operator's compartment.
- E. Disconnect batteries.
- F. Make sure all chains, hooks, sling, etc. are in good condition and are of correct capacity.
- G. Place and secure appropriate chain attached to service truck and/or shop hoist for use in lowering belly pan. Also secure a static support chain in position under the belly pan. This static, or secondary, chain is to be snugged securely against the belly pan by using a come-along or other appropriate device that will prevent any slack in this chain. Make sure the chains are positioned near the center of the belly pan to prevent slipping. Using two chains will provide appropriate safety factor to ensure belly pan is secure when nuts or bolts are removed.
- H. Fully inspect the belly pan assembly including nuts, bolts and hinges to ensure all components are intact prior to any further work being conducted.
- I. Carefully remove appropriate nuts, washers and bolts while positioning body to avoid exposure to belly pan.
- J. From outside of machine, unhook one end of the static chain so belly pan can be lowered.
- K. From outside of machine, lower the pan until the lifting device is free of pressure.
- L. To reinstall belly pan, reverse these procedures.

