

Lowboy Operator Struck by Boom Stand Support Arm

Task: Positioning boom stand on trailer **Occupation:** Lowboy operator **Release Date:** 2019

In October 2019, a lowboy operator and a shovel operator were positioning a boom stand on a lowboy trailer. Their employer had an established procedure for lifting or lowering the boom stand using a chain attached to the grapples of a shovel. Instead, the lowboy operator directed the shovel operator to use the shovel's grapples to lift the boom stand into place. The lowboy operator was standing on the trailer's deck near the rear tires as the shovel operator positioned the boom stand. He was leaning forward and reaching toward the support arm when the grapples slipped off the boom stand. As the boom stand fell towards the deck, it caused the support arm to strike the pin boss. The support arm flipped up and struck the lowboy operator's hardhat, causing him a serious head injury.



Lowboy trailer boom stand held by the shovel's grapples. When the grapples slipped off the boom stand, it fell down, causing the support arm (yellow circle) to strike the pin boss (right arrow) and flip up (left arrow), striking the lowboy operator on his hard hat.



Lowboy operator's damaged hardhat.

Safety Requirements

- Employee work areas must be spaced and employee duties organized so the actions of one employee do not create a hazard for any other employee. See [WAC 296-54-513\(1\)](#)

Recommended Safe Practices

- Lowboy operators should stay in the clear until the boom support is set in place and secured.
- Make sure everyone involved understands, communicates, and follows all safety procedures in place for the tasks that they will be performing.

