



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 60

UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM

INCIDENT

The operator of a knuckle boom elevating work platform escaped injury when the boom collapsed onto the walkway structure of the stacker he was preparing for painting. The steelwork stopped the boom continuing to ground which may have resulted in a more serious outcome for the operator.

CAUSE

Investigation revealed that a hydraulic cylinder had blown the blanking end plate off the barrel allowing the boom to collapse. Poor design and welding procedure were contributing factors.

COMMENT AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

The manufacturer was aware of the problem and had implemented a programme to replace the defective cylinders. This unit failed before replacement could take place. The owner had not been notified of the condition.

The manufacturer's records relating to the cylinder replacement programme indicated that all other machines with the defect had been rectified, however, another machine was discovered with a cylinder which appeared to be of the defective type.

The manufacture has implemented an inspection of all units of this type to ensure an accurate record of machine condition exists.

Inspection by a suitably qualified and experienced person of all units of this type (irrespective of manufacturer) is strongly recommended prior to them being put into use on a site and regularly thereafter. Repairs and modifications should only be carried out, in accordance with good engineering practice and the instructions of the manufacturer, by appropriately skilled personnel.

J M Torlach
STATE MINING ENGINEER

10 July 1995

SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES