



Zero Fatalities  
Zero Lost Time  
Zero Road/Speed Incidents  
Zero Environmental Incidents  
Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 7

<b>Date:</b> 06 March 2019	<b>Focus Group:</b> Machine Operators
<b>Topic:</b> Routine Maintenance – Excavator	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Incident:** While topping up the hydraulic fluid, the fill plug was proving difficult to undo. It suddenly cracked open, surprising the operator and jarring his shoulder.

**Injury Details:** The operator worked on for two days. As the pain was not reducing, he saw a doctor who recommended a week off work to rest his shoulder – LTI.

**Risk Awareness:** For some common reasons, including over-tightening, drain plugs can be stubborn to loosen and remove. Applying force may give rise to a loss of balance or potentially harm from contact with the tools involved either from slipping over and onto an object, or from suddenly wrenching a part of your body.

**Safe Behaviour:** Park the machine on level ground and de-energise it; following the manufacturer's operation and maintenance manual. Only proceed if you have the PPE, training and authority. Hot oil and components can cause personal injury so never remove the fill plug if the oil is still hot – it can also lead to pump damage. If the oil is warm, loosen the plug slowly to release any residual pressure from the tank. Use an appropriately sized socket and bar and if the plug doesn't budge call a mechanic.

**For Site Manager use** (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

**Date:** / /