



SAFETY ALERT

DATE: 27th Jan 2023

SA: 0004

TITLE:

Jetting hose injury

INDUSTRY SECTOR:

Water utilities

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Waste networks, wastewater treatment and operational jetting contractors

ORIGINAL SAFETY ALERT ISSUED BY

Ausjet

A water jetting operative was struck by his jetting hose when undertaking blockage clearance work.

They had been cleaning a sewer line using the pendant control on a class B drain cleaning unit (Australian classification, see below). The operator was approximately 2 metres from the hose when it burst. The crew were utilising hose tiger tails to protect the hose on entry into the pipe being cleaned.

The failure of the hose caused the hose to move rapidly towards the operator, striking him on the thigh. The impact caused a laceration to his thigh that required medical treatment. Medical staff could not find any water injection and believe the cut was caused by the impact of the hose.

ACTIONS

- Provide medical attention for injured operator
- Conduct thorough pre-start checks on all high pressure hoses
- Equipment must be free from defects
- Use hose tiger tails to protect hoses from sharp edges
- Use automated controls for drain cleaning
- Position yourself away from the hose
- Always wear appropriate PPE that can withstand the impact of the high pressure water jet

LEARNINGS

- Conduct a thorough inspection of all high pressure hoses before use
- Minimise the angle that the hose enters the pit (where possible) to minimise drag on the hose

Class A and Class B water jetting systems

In accordance with Australian regulations

Class A systems have a maximum output pressure between 800 – 5600 bar litres per minute whereas the Class B systems have a minimum output pressure of 5600 bar litres per minute or over. If the water jetting system produces output pressure below 800 bar litres per minute then it is categorised as a low pressure pump.





ACTIONS – For WJA Members

If you are a supervisor or a manager whose teams undertakes jetting activities please ensure your they are aware of the content of this alert.

Remember – Always carry out pre-start checks, including hose inspections. These are important. If hoses are damaged or you are concerned about their condition, you must remove them from service and report your concerns to your supervisor or manager, as stated in the WJA Red Code of Practice (Appendix 2- 13: Inspect hose regularly). See reference below.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Section 22: Safe use of water jetting equipment – Water Jetting Association Code of Practice - For the safe use of water jetting equipment in drains and sewers and surface preparation with a jetting gun at pressures up to 275 bar (4000 PSI) that an operative can comfortably hold 2023 ISBN – 1 874278 04 7.

Appendix 2: Hose and end fittings and couplings illustrations – Water Jetting Association Code of Practice - For the safe use of water jetting equipment in drains and sewers and surface preparation with a jetting gun at pressures up to 275 bar (4000 PSI) that an operative can comfortably hold 2023 ISBN – 1 874278 04 7.

Appendix 6: Risk assessment – Water Jetting Association Code of Practice - For the safe use of water jetting equipment in drains and sewers and surface preparation with a jetting gun at pressures up to 275 bar (4000 PSI) that an operative can comfortably hold 2023 ISBN – 1 874278 04 7.