



# INCIDENT ALERT

## General Information

Date of Incident	23/1/16
Type of Incident	Incident Causing Injury (No Lost Time)

## About the Person

Occupation of Person	HPWJ Operator
Experience of Person	6 to 12 months
HPWJ Training Level	Company High Pressure Water Jetting Course
Other Training	IFAP HPWJ Programme
No. of Hours Completed	4 – 6 hours

## About the Incident

Time of Accident	
Result of Injury	First aid
Lost Days	Nil
Description of Incident	Superficial abrasion to left upper chest.
What Equipment Category	Gun work.
Equipment Used	2,500bar HPWJ unit with UHP gun
What happened unexpectedly	Injured employee was descaling base of a refinery pump with high pressure water. While descaling the operator felt an impact to his left upper chest. Winded from the impact, the operator stopped blasting and laid down. His work team immediately took him to site emergency services for assessment.
What Was Person Doing	Descaling pump base using high pressure water.

## Corrective Action

What Immediate Action	<p>Job was stopped and area was barricaded off for investigation.</p> <p>All HPWJ jobs involving the same set-up were stopped.</p> <p>External 3rd parties were engaged to conduct testing of lance, pump, gun and hoses (connections were left intact until this test)</p> <p>Following the incident several probable causes of the injury were pursued to determine what caused the impact specifically; uncontrolled release of high pressure water or fittings, flying scale or electric shock. None of these could be conclusively identified as the causal factors. Medical examination to the operator showed no penetration of high pressure water.</p>
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## Preventative Action

Elimination	
Substitution	
Isolation or barriers	The metal section on protective shrouds used on the fitting between gun and hose should fully cover the fitting so that a rupture would be fully contained.
Engineering	Set up of hired guns changed to move gun-hose join away from the body of operator (front feed rather than rear feed)
Administration	Injuries involving High Pressure Water must be assumed to be HPW related until proven otherwise.
PPE	

## LEARNINGS

AS/NZS 4233.1

1.4 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The following requirements shall be observed to protect persons against the harmful effects of hazards associated with water jetting.

(a) Before commencing any water jetting operations, steps shall be taken to ensure that all hazards likely to affect the safety of persons operating equipment or working in the vicinity of water jetting operations are eliminated or minimized to as low as reasonably practicable.

