



# INCIDENT ALERT

## General Information

Date of Incident	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Type of Incident	First aid treatment

## About the Person

Occupation of Person	HPWJ operator
Experience of Person	12-24 months in industry
HPWJ Training Level	HPWJ Assistant MSMSS00003
Other Training	
No. of Hours Completed	12 hours

## About the Incident

Time of incident	11:45 am
Result of Injury/Damage	First aid treatment
Lost Days	Nil
Description of Incident	Laceration caused by high pressure water
What Equipment Category	Class A
Equipment Used	Gun
What Was Person Doing	The operator was performing de-sludging activities in a tank using the HPW to slurry up thick heavy sludge for vacuuming.
What happened unexpectedly	The operator's gun barrel became stuck in the heavy sludge and was unable to move his feet and began to fall. To regain his balance he extracted the lance which came free from the sludge and moved across the top of his gumboot. The jet penetrated the gumboot causing a laceration to his toe.

## Corrective Action

What Immediate Action	Reported incident to supervisor and was taken to first aid for assessment and treatment.
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## Preventative Action

Elimination	
Substitution	
Isolation or barriers	
Engineering	Use appropriate sized gun barrels that cannot be pointed at the feet of workers.
Administration	Update WMS to reflect how the worker need not stand directly in sludge.
PPE	Use of HPWJ boots or protective spats to be worn at all times when using any type of HPWJ apparatus.

## LEARNINGS

- Over 55% of all reported HPWJ injuries have occurred while the operator was using a hand held jetting gun.
- Over the past three years the number of Class A injuries related to gun work has increased.
- Companies should be continually re-assessing their Class A gun work risk assessments, procedures, JSEA or SWMS as well as equipment used against industry standards and incident safety alerts to ensure workers safety.