

Hit in the face by an high pressure (HP) head

SI-2017-06-001

VICTIM

An operator in same activity: no Veolia

CONSEQUENCES

Death

CIRCUMSTANCES

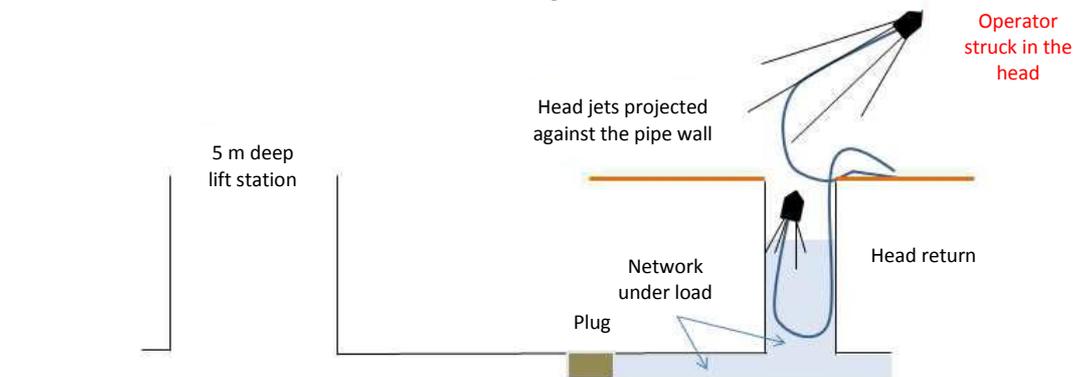
An operator was working on a private network, cleaning a 100 mm diameter waste water pipe. This latter was located at a depth of 4 m, between a 5 m deep lift station and a 160 mm diameter manhole, under load, at an unknown height.

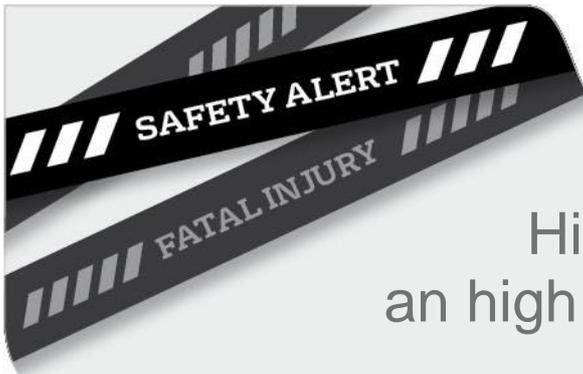
The operator was using a 1/2" HP hose. He inserted the HP head into the manhole. The network had not been previously pumped. The head exited the manhole and struck the face of the operator, who died.

Work site configuration photo



Accident diagram





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MEASURES TO CHECK

Human

- Ensure that the employees have been trained in the use of pressurized equipment.

Organizational

- **Ensure that all the necessary equipment is available when preparing the work site** (pumping pipe length, diameter compatible with the network diameter, storage capacity, PPE, CPE). If the service was not planned and **if the equipment required to provide this service correctly and safely is missing, immediately notify supervisor or manager line.**
- Identify the full and empty manholes in order to determine the direction of flow.
- For unclogging operations, always start from an empty manhole to reach the plug. **Whenever possible, unclog from downstream up.**

If this is not possible,

- Pump out the effluent upstream of the blockage, or use the cleaning rods to locate the entry to the pipe and to guide the head into the pipe
- **Hazardous phase: HP activation. Systematically check that the scouring head has entered the pipe before using pressure.** Correct head insertion into the pipe is observed by the swirling water. The operation should be performed with sustained action, controller set to low / motor idling. **Move to the side of the manhole when activating the HP.**

Technical

- Whenever technically feasible, fit a roll-over prevention tool between the hose and the HP head.
- Action sustained for this type of work (remote control, pedal, etc.).
- Inspection grid: place on manhole
- **Visual indication of hose length (e.g.: safety ring or yellow safety extension)**

