



INCIDENT ALERT



General Information

Date of Incident	25th December 2017
Type of Incident	Lost time injury
About the Person	
Occupation of Person	Water Authority Hydraulics Operator
Experience of Person	Eight months HPWJ experience
HPWJ Training Level	Detailed in house training under the supervision of two experienced competent HWPJ operators including Plant Assessors risk management reports & operators manual
Other Training	Cert 3 Plumbing and Gas Fitting
No. of Hours Completed	Less than 1 hour.

About the Incident

Time of incident	5:20pm
Result of Injury/Damage	HPWJ injection injury
Lost Days	Not disclosed
Description of Incident	An experienced sewer maintenance worker was called out to clear a sewer blockage. The nozzle/hose assembly was fed into the sewer pipe entrance point which was 2.5 metres down in the manhole which at the time was full with sewerage. The task appeared to be progressing normally as the nozzle/hose assembly was being fed out.
What Equipment Category	Drain cleaning unit
Equipment Used	Penetrating nozzle
What Was Person Doing	Clearing a choke in a sewerage line
What happened unexpectedly	Without any warning or suggestion of an imminent problem the nozzle/ hose assembly exited from the manhole in a vertical direction and in the process entered the operators work shorts and caused significant injuries that required hospitalisation.

Corrective Action

What Immediate Action	Stop the task and seek medical attention.
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Preventative Action

Elimination	
Substitution	
Isolation or barriers	A purpose designed lightweight aluminium grill has been purchased to prevent the jetting nozzle from exiting the manhole while under pressure.
Engineering	
Administration	Job documentation (SWMS) was updated and issued to all relevant personnel.
PPE	Long pants, Forearm length gloves & Full face shield

LEARNINGS



When cleaning drains that are full with liquid extra care must be taken due to loss of audible sounds that indicate where the nozzle could be.

