



INCIDENT ALERT



General Information

Date of Incident	29th April 2026
Type of Incident	Lost time injury

About the Person

Occupation of Person	Unknown
Experience of Person	Unknown
HPWJ Training Level	Unknown
Other Training	Unknown
No. of Hours Completed	Unknown

About the Incident

Time of incident	Unknown
Result of Injury/Damage	Injury to upper right chest and armpit.
Lost Days	Unknown
Description of Incident	A maintenance crew was tasked with high pressure water jetting a sewer main.
What Equipment Category	Drain cleaning
Equipment Used	Drain cleaner, pressure hose, nozzle and safety grate.
What Was Person Doing	Jetting was performed from an upstream/full maintenance chamber due to misinterpretation of flow direction. The jetting nozzle was not completely inserted into the pipe, causing the hose to turn and recoil out of the safety grate.
What happened unexpectedly	The hose nozzle unexpectedly recoiled out of the maintenance hole, out of the installed safety grate and struck the hose operator's upper right chest and armpit.

Corrective Action

What Immediate Action	The emergency stop was immediately engaged by the assistant operator which limited the extent of the injuries.
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Preventative Action

Elimination	Flow direction must be verified before jetting decisions are made.
Substitution	Where downstream access is not an option, additional hose positioning controls are utilised (e.g. starter bar).
Isolation or barriers	
Engineering	A design review of the safety grate is underway.
Administration	Refresher training will emphasise critical risks and critical controls for jetting from full chambers, abnormal nozzle behaviour, emergency stop response, line-of-fire controls, and supervisor escalation requirements.
PPE	

LEARNINGS

- Jetting from a full maintenance chamber is inherently higher risk than jetting from an empty downstream chamber due to pressure, visibility, decreased hose control, the nozzle and hose can float or fail to enter the pipe correctly before water pressure is applied.
- The crew misinterpreted the sewer invert levels and believed they were working downstream when they were working upstream.
- Physical controls were not sufficient for this scenario. The safety grate and chamber lid were used as expected, but the nozzle still exited through a narrow opening and struck the worker.
- Training and competency verification reinforces critical controls.



Safety grate and nozzle



Hose, nozzle, grate and maintenance hole cover

Please Note: The information contained within the Ausjet/ADCVA Incident Alert have been transposed from the initial Safety Alert sent through.