



SAFETY ALERT

DATE: 30th Sept 2025

SA: 0009

TITLE:

High pressure water jetting injury

INDUSTRY SECTOR:

Industrial cleaning

TARGET AUDIENCE:

All water jetting sectors

ORIGINAL SAFETY ALERT ISSUED BY

Ausjet

WHAT HAPPENED

A water jetting operative had been cleaning cooling water tunnels with a high pressure water jetting pump and gun.

The incident happened in the morning, 3.5 hours into a day shift.

He had been using an adjustable spanner to remove the nozzle head of the gun when the trigger was accidentally activated and a jet of water pierced the operative's gloved hand at 1,500 psi.

About the operative: 30 years' experience, completion of high pressure water jetting and vacuumation training. Other training: confined space entry, managing risk, construction card.

ACTION TAKEN

The operative received emergency medical treatment for the injury to the palm of his left hand and was off work for 11 days.

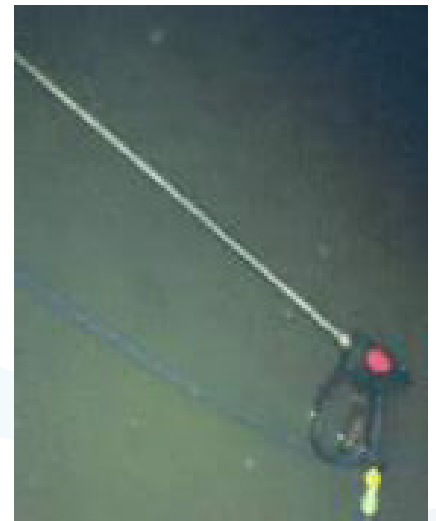
The worksite was preserved and WorkSafe, the region's health and safety agency was informed.

A WorkSafe inspector contacted the client of the water jetting contractor to discuss the incident and released the worksite under the condition that:

- The water jetting equipment was inspected
- The work party held a toolbox on the incident
- The work party reviewed its Safe Work Method Statement and detailed controls to manage risks when changing nozzle heads on high pressure water jetting equipment.



Hole in glove made by high pressure jet



PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Elimination	N/A
Substitution	N/A
Isolation or barriers	Depressurise the HPWJ system
Engineering	Manufacturer's face-to-face induction to unit
Administration	Toolbox meeting to discuss the incident
PPE	N/A

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Ensure the system is fully depressurised before making any adjustments.
- Verify that all safety latches are functioning correctly.
- The person controlling the water flow must have direct control of the primary stop/start device.



RELATED DOCUMENTS

Document	Topic	Sections	Page
WJA blue code of practice for safe use of high pressure and ultra-high pressure water jetting equipment	Jetting Guns (Dry Shut-off Type)	16.3	33
WJA red code of practice for the safe use of water jetting equipment in drains and sewers, the use of a gun and robotics	Jetting Guns (Dry Shut-off Type)	21.3	46
WJA purple code of practice for the safe use of hot and cold pressure washing equipment	Jetting Guns (Dry Shut-off Type)	16.3	29