

## Operator struck by compressed air hose

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A blast crew was setting up the charge-up vehicle in preparation for charging blast holes. A worker removed one end of the 1-inch air hose from the rear of the vehicle and connected it to the compressed air line dropper. Without checking the other end of the hose was connected, he turned the air line fully on, allowing maximum pressure through the 1-inch line. The air line was not connected to the machine and the hose rapidly sprung back, knocking the worker to the ground and dislodging his hard hat. Another worker heard the noise and came to the aid of the injured worker.



**Pressure release is one of the four fatal hazards that kill 80% of workers in the mining and quarrying sector, and in fact in workplaces generally throughout the world.**

We recommend that all sites review tasks that involve the use of high pressure air, water and/or hydraulic fluid. You need to ensure that:

- **Where appropriate, safety devices such as whip checks, air shut off valves, taps and solid fittings etc. are installed.**
- **Procedures for turning on, and turning off, high pressure lines are reviewed, particularly around ensuring both ends are connected prior to pressurising the line, and that both ends of hoses are together when not in use.**
- **Workers are trained and assessed as competent to work with high pressure equipment.**
- **Activities are adequately supervised, and tasks observed, to ensure risk controls are in place and are effective.**

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

8 June 2018