

Safety Alert

18 October 2024

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

Autoclave discharge of wash water

During a planned process autoclave shutdown, contractors were disconnecting the autoclave scrubber discharge drain line (mining hose). While removing the flange bolts, a chain block was used to support the mining hose, and checks were done to monitor the release of liquid until the last bolt was removed and the hose was slowly lowered by releasing tension from the chain block.

There was a sudden release of liquid and pieces of debris from the scrubber covered the three people removing the pipe and three others that were working on the level directly below the scrubber discharge.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 6 years show 5% of incidents (297 incidents) involve pressure release of which 118 result from release of hydraulic pressure.

You need to ensure that:

1. Hoses and liquid discharge points are checked for blockages prior to decoupling any hose.
2. You challenge procedures and review all maintenance tasks for the safest and most efficient way to conduct maintenance.
3. All potential releases of pressure are checked before commencing maintenance on plant.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.