

NZ Safety Alert

4 March 2022

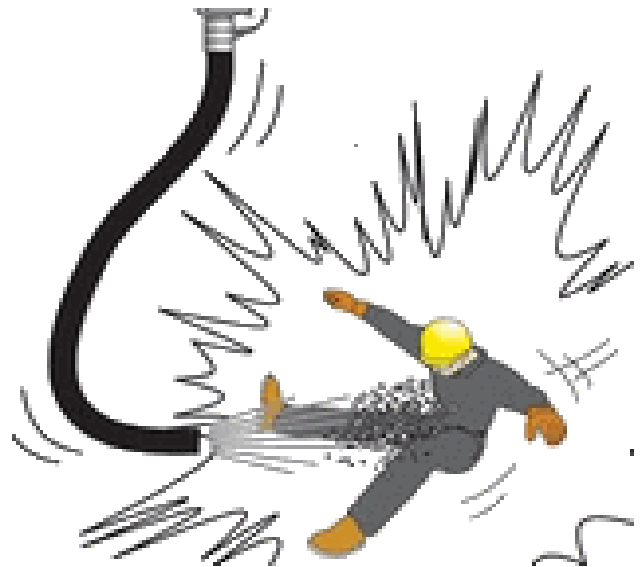
Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Air line blew off rattle gun

A maintenance crew were replacing a throat bush on the plant. Whilst nipping up the bolts with an air actuated rattle gun the air line unexpectedly separated from the rattle gun whilst in use.

The air line flew off to the left while under pressure and hit the handrail. A fitter was able to stop the movement of the air line by using his foot to stand on it until the air supply to the line was isolated.

No-one was hit by the whipping air line and there were no injuries.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm show 5% (222) of all incidents result from sudden pressure release, of which 80 involved hydraulic pressure.

You need to ensure that:

1. All items of plant and equipment are checked for damage, wear etc., prior to being used on maintenance activities.
2. Where appropriate, whip chains/straps or other protection devices are used on pressurized hoses to secure them in the event of separation under pressure.
3. Pressure release hazards are identified, and appropriate controls are implemented.

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