

NZ Safety Alert

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

11 March 2022

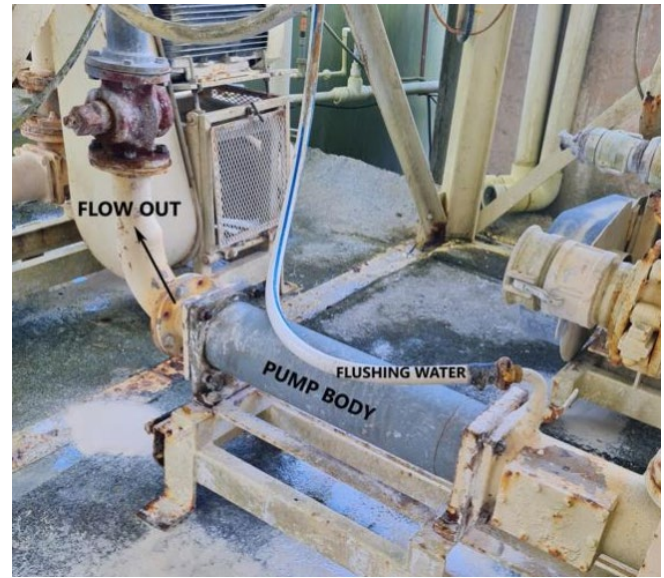
Worker struck while fixing pump

A maintenance crew were investigating over temperature in an electric motor driving a filter press pump.

The electric motor, drive belts and plumbing were removed from the pump and the pump flushed with water to try to dislodge what was jamming it. This did not clear the blockage.

While one fitter tried to free the pump by spinning the drive shaft with a spanner, the second fitter turned the flushing water back on, energising the pump. The spanner flew from the fitter's hand striking him on the elbow.

The fitter suffered a contusion and graze to his right elbow.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm show 14% (613) of all incidents result in occupational injury.

You need to ensure that:

1. All energy sources are isolated prior to commencing any maintenance activities.
2. Ensure no-one is working on or near plant that is to be energised, without appropriate guarding or separation distance.
3. Pressure release hazards, including water pressure, are identified and appropriate controls are implemented.

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