

NZ Safety Alert

16 February 2024

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

Worker burnt during maintenance

A worker was attempting to clear a blockage in a water pump at an alluvial gold mine when a hose separated from the pump, spraying the worker with scalding hot water.

The worker suffered severe burns to approximately one third of his body and was hospitalised for treatment.

The incident is currently under investigation but it appears that the pump was operating whilst the worker tried to clear the blockage.



MinEx statistics on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 5 years show 4% of incidents (271 incidents) involve pressure release, of which 97 involved are of hydraulic pressure.

You need to ensure:

1. That all plant is de-energised and pressure released prior to conducting maintenance on that plant.
2. Hoses containing pressure are securely attached to pumps etc, and whip chains or other safety devices are attached to contain hoses in the event of unplanned separation.
3. All plant and equipment are maintained in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) requirements.

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