

High Pressure Hoses – Controlling the Risk

From 01 April 2023 the following requirements apply at all Wellington Water sites (including all contractors and sub-contractors):

- All pressurised hoses used on Wellington Water sites must be fitted with appropriate hose restraints to prevent the hose/ pipe from flailing if it uncouples. This applies to:
 - High Pressure Jetting Operations (Defined as Class A and B in AS/NZS 4233.2:2013)
 - Compressed Air Hoses

Risk:

- In 2022 a Wellington Water contractor had a serious incident when they were struck on the head twice by a flailing jet flusher hose.
- In 2016, at the yard of a Fulton Hogan joint venture in Fiji, a worker was killed when a high-pressure water hose failed at a connector and whipped around striking the operator on the head.
- In 2012, A Downer worker engaged to break up rocks following a significant rock fall on Milford Road received fatal head injuries when an air compressor hose suddenly detached. The flailing hose whipped around and struck him on the head. He was wearing a hard hat at the time

Solution:

- Always fit the appropriate hose restraints before starting:
 - “Bull hoses” or hoses greater than 50 mm require purpose fitted and engineered whip socks.
 - Hoses with “twist and connect” style couplers typically have an internal measurement of 24mm +/- and these require the use of whip checks and locking pins
- When you need whip checks or whip socks, make sure these are installed at every connection point: where the hose connects to the compressor outlet, at every hose-to-hose connection, and at every hose to tool connection.
- If you are unsure on the appropriate solution for your equipment speak to a member of the Wellington Water Health and Safety Team

