



Safety Alert

Hazard Alert: 'Hydraulic Bite' from high-pressure hydraulic hose

A tyre serviceman received serious injuries to his hand while using a hydraulic Portapower tool. Despite wearing PPE (gloves), high-pressure oil was injected into his hand from the equipment when the hose ruptured where he was holding it. He required emergency hospitalisation and surgery.

To avoid such accidents at your workplace, follow site safe work procedures and

- Check the Portapower tool for any defects each time prior to using it; pay particular attention to examining the hose and all fittings closely for cracks, kinks or other signs of damage.
- Do not lift the hydraulic pump or ram head by the connecting hydraulic hose – this will weaken the connections.
- Ensure the hydraulic ram is properly secured before you start pressurising the system.
- **Stop and check for any leaks**, particularly on the ram and the hose while pressurising the system – stop and repair any leaks before proceeding.
- **Do not hold the hose with your hands or support it with other parts of your body while pressurising the system.**
- After your work is completed, carefully store the Portapower tool in an appropriate area.

Observing these simple points can save you from serious injury

Work safely always

Tilman Rasche
Mgr. Health & Safety

7 February 2003

- **Note: Respect the energy stored in hydraulic systems, like electrical energy you cannot see hydraulic energy!**
- **Do not rely on PPE – oil or any other fluid under high pressure will cut through most materials.**

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