

UK HSE: Fatal incident using high pressure water jetting equipment

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What happened?

The UK Health and Safety Executive has prosecuted a company after a worker suffered a fatal injury using high-pressure water jetting equipment for industrial cleaning purposes.

An employee was using a high-pressure jet washer to clear paint residue from pipes.

During the process he was struck by the end of the flexi-lance, causing a fatal injury.

What were the causes?

HSE investigation found that the company recognised the risks of operating high-pressure water jetting equipment, but they had *failed to put in place appropriate measures to mitigate the risks* [IMCA emphasis].

They had not implemented or enforced the use of various control measures such as a pressure regulator or an anti-ejection device, which were missing at the time of the incident and, training and supervision were also not up to standard.

Members may wish to refer to:

- [Serious Injury Caused By High-Pressure Washer](#)
- [Lost Time Injury \(LTI\): Serious Hand Injury During High Pressure Washing Operations](#)
- [Diver Sustains Water Jetting Injury](#)
- Recommended practice for the use of high pressure jetting equipment by divers ([IMCA D049](#))

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Line of fire

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