Safety Alert 25-85 Hose Strike to the Face Resulting in Injury

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

Introduction

During a wet well cleanse, one of the operatives sustained a hose strike to the face causing a nasal fracture (not initially identified due to swelling when initially visiting A&E) but subsequently confirmed on follow up visit with their GP. This required paper stitches to be applied to the wound and they were prescribed appropriate medication to prevent any potential infections.

Information

The incident involved a 1-inch hose and took place at Ecclesbourne Meadows SPS, prior to undertaking a Wet Well Cleanse. The temperature was reported as being between 0 and 1 degrees Celsius. The injured operative had rolled out 20 metres of the 1- inch hose. The second crew member turned on the pump at low revs, immediately heard a hiss and a bang and then turned off the pumps to attend to the injured operative. This was the fourth cleanse undertaken by the crew on the day using an 18T Jet Vac and the second cleanse using the 1-inch hose. Daily checks had been undertaken at the start of the day and did not highlight any defects or concerns. Both crew members confirmed all required PPE for this activity was worn.

Specific Risk Identified

- Increased risk of hose “kick back” in freeze thaw conditions – potential to also occur after transit (associated with windchill)
- There is no facility to purge the jetting system on the 18T jet vacs currently used by the Wet Well Cleansing team. New and hire vehicles do have this facility
- There is no facility to fix the hose (1/2 – inch or 1-inch) during testing and prior to use on the 18T Jet vacs used by the Wet Well Cleansing team.

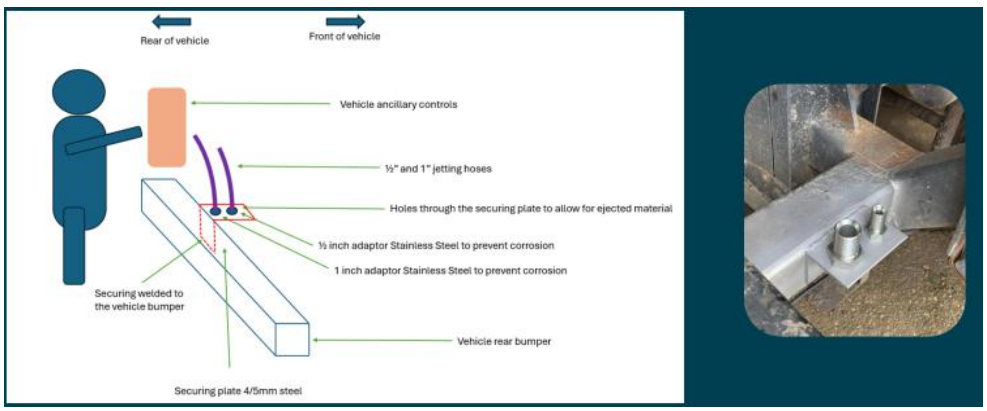
Actions on Progress

<u>Training and guidance</u>

- Local Operating Procedure (LOP) updated with additional guidance for working during freeze thaw conditions

<u>Vehicle Modification</u>

- In collaboration with Transport, all WWC internal fleet vehicles are being modified to ensure the hose can be securely held in position when testing prior to use with the hose directing downward (see photo and sketch below)



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Authorised by:	Zoe Robertson	**Date:**	22/10/2025
Distribution list:	*Operations, Capital Delivery, Contractors, and Executive Management Team*		

MWHT Requirements.

Actions

- Always follow your Safe System of Work
- Always remember the Lifesaving Commitments
- Follow the advice contained in this Safety Alert
- Ensure you complete a Safe Start card at the start of your shift
- If in **DOUBT STOP WORK** and seek advice from your supervisor
- Report all Incidents or "Improve Its"

Manager:		**Project No:**	
Date:		**Project:**	

BRIEFING RECORD: I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE BRIEFING ON THIS SAFETY INFORMATION AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH MWHT REQUIREMENTS.

Name	Signature	Company