

Placing Body parts in the Line of Fire

A concrete footing was required to be broken back to expose the reinforcement steel.

A vacuum truck was required to perform non-destructive digging to expose the in-ground service.

During this task the nozzle of the hose became blocked with a piece of concrete.

The Vac truck operator attempted to dislodge the piece of concrete whilst the vacuum truck was still operating. The piece of concrete dislodged and the operator's left hand and forearm became wedged in the hose.

The vacuum truck assistant stopped the pump allowing the operator to pull his arm from the hose.

The operator received bruising to the left arm.



Recommendations and Reminders

- Never place body parts in the line of fire of the vacuum hose whilst in operation.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations when removing a blockage from a hose.
- E-stop must be within reach of the operator or spotter/assistant at all times.
- Emergency procedures to be known and shared amongst the workers.