

SAFETY ALERT

High-pressure Water Cleaners

A recent incident resulted in an operator receiving serious injuries to their right eye when operating a high-pressure water cleaner.

The operator inadvertently triggered the water cleaner, causing the lance to move uncontrollably in the air and being struck in the eye. Fortunately the operator was wearing safety glasses at the time of the incident.

On review into the incident it was identified that the high pressure water cleaner gun was not fit for use as it had a missing trigger guard and the safety trigger device was not functioning as a result of dirt and concrete build-up.



Lance Gun from Incident



Lance Gun with Safety Trigger

Direct Cause(s) of Event

- Lance gun had missing trigger guard
- The safety trigger lock was not functioning due to build-up of grit and dirt, locking the mechanism into the trigger.
- Prestart check of machine failed to identify the unserviceable lance gun.
- Operator only wearing single eye protection

Actions to Prevent Recurrence

- Check all high-pressure water cleaners to ensure lance guns have trigger guards and functioning safety trigger devices fitted (requiring two action movements to initiate trigger)
- Ensure all lance guns have 360dg Anti winding connection in place.
- Ensure operators are undertaking prestart checks on machine to check all safety devices are functioning.
- It is recommended that workers wear double eye protection (safety glasses and face shield) when using high-pressure water cleaners.