

DATE OF ISSUE (to ESAA): 28 Oct 2004	NUMBER OF PAGES: 3
SAFETY ALERT: 01/2003	ESAA NUMBER:

ESAA No: 40/2003

Safety Alert – Air Hose Incident

Purpose

To increase health and safety awareness relating to work practices and equipment and to provide information sharing between companies.

Brief Description of Incident

During abrasive blasting work at Barron Gorge Hydro Power Station, the point of connection between a flexible 75mm airline and air dryer (pressure vessel) failed. The two clamps and whip check came free. This failure resulted in the airline becoming free and uncontrolled. The abrasive blasting work and plant were under the control of a contractor.



Extent of Injury / Damage

A nearby worker (contractor) was struck by components associated with the air-blasting equipment. A fatality resulted.

Local Action Taken

First aid was administered, Emergency Services (ambulance) attended site and the area was made safe and secured.

Additional Comments

The mechanism of failure is still under investigation. However, this incident has reinforced the dangers associated with the energy stored within pressurised airlines.

Further Action

The contracting company is undertaking a full investigation.

Action taken on Stanwell sites includes:

1. Identifying any plant / equipment or work where 690 KPa (or greater) flexible compressed airlines of 25mm diameter (or greater) are being used (smaller airlines and hydraulic systems will also be reviewed).
2. Identifying the owner of the plant / equipment (including if it is hired).
3. Identifying the means of connection (include type / brand of hose, whip check / safety chain, hose clamping system if fitted and if clamping system fitted, who fitted the clamp, what the hose is connected to) between hose lines and / or plant and any existing safety procedures / inspections being undertaken.
4. Ensuring that the equipment is in a safe condition and if necessary tagged "out of service" and then undertaking repairs or remedial action to protect the area until repairs or replacements can be completed.

Further Information - Contact:

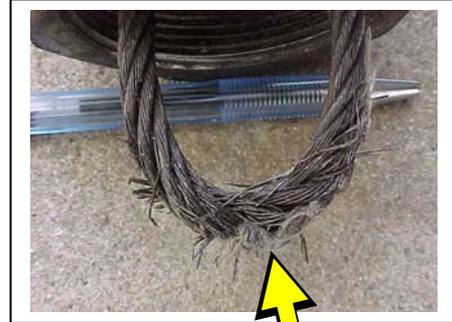
Sue Leighton, OHS Systems Manager, Stanwell Corporation.

Phone: 07 3335 7539. Email: sue.leighton@stanwell.com

Examples of equipment not fit for purpose.



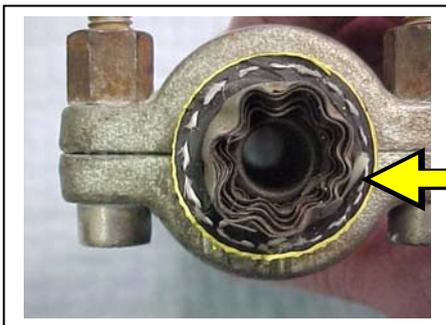
Some hoses have internal whip-check protection – wire rope up the inside of the pipe.



An internal whip-check protection in a poor state of repair – frayed wire.



An example of an airline being used by a contractor. A piece of extra hose was fitted under the worm drive clip to allow the hose to be tightened onto the barbed air fitting.



From the photo you can see the use of duct tape to increase the size of the barbed tailpiece.