



Safety Advice 22-2014 (NZ) (Mar) *(Transmission)*

The following First Alert courtesy of Transpower provides advanced advice of a water blast abrasive medium injection incident to the hand. This is under investigation and any cause information will be posted as a supplementary advice when the information becomes available.

The full safety advice follows below.

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 **TRANSPOWER**



FIRST ALERT

Date 22 March 2014

Tower Painting (SNI:BRK-SFD B)Abrasive blast injury to hand

On 21st March 2014 a five man crew was carrying out tower painting surface preparation activities (abrasive injected water jetting). An employee blasting at ground level took a break while the “groundie” took the opportunity to do some maintenance work on the guns and pumps. While dismantling a gun he was distracted by other urgent work. Meanwhile the employee finished his break, returned to his gun and began the process of reassembling the gun. This involved cleaning sand and mud off the end of the nozzle thread and during this process inadvertently pulled the trigger driving water and abrasive into his left hand at point blank range. The residual pressure in the blast hose had inadvertently not been released by either worker.

Incident location



Employees blast gun



IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- The injured party was transferred to Wanganui hospital by a crew member by road after initial communication with 111 by phone. Water Injection card handed to medical staff on arrival.
- Site made safe and investigation commenced
- A preliminary report was lodged with Worksafe NZ on 21/3/14
- Employee was assessed and transferred by air to Wellington hospital where he underwent surgery Saturday 22/3 to remove foreign matter from his left hand. He will remain under observation at the hospital until Tuesday 25th March and will then be released for recovery at home.
- Investigations continuing on the root cause.