

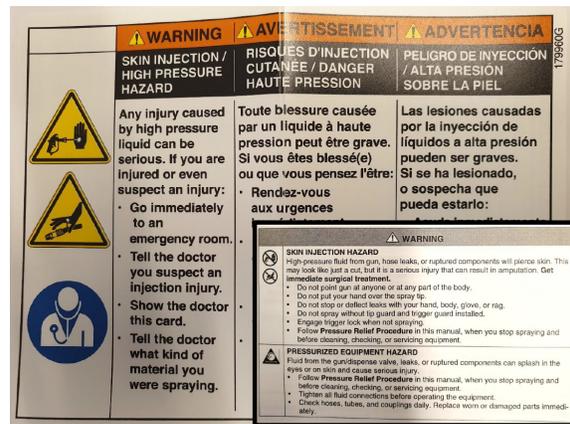
SAFETY ALERT

Topic: High-pressure injured finger during spray painting

Keyword: High pressure, missing safety equipment

What happened:

During spray-painting the nozzle got clogged. Procedure for sealed nozzle is to spray paint in the opposite direction through the nozzle. In this case, the nozzle was fixed and the injured person (ISO sub-contractor) had to use tools to loosen the nut on the nozzle. The pump was shut off, but the hose not depressurized. At the same time as injured person loosens the nut, the injury was caused by holding a finger in front of the nozzle opening, while pressure comes out of the nozzle. The residual pressure in the hose forms a jet that penetrates the glove and into the finger. The causes of the injury are finger placed on the nozzle, that pressure in the hose is not depressurized, the spray gun missed the Tip Guard and the handle kit in front of the handle, and also the locking pin was not activated. The injury resulted in paint particles penetrating the right middle finger, with subsequent emergency surgery the same day and surgery over again the following day. Part of the fingertip, middle finger right hand amputated (lost time injury). The outcome of this incident could have caused a more serious injury under slightly altered conditions.



Experience:

- Inadequate risk planning and control of barriers
- Inadequate spray gun safety equipment, in this case both Tip Guard and handle kit. An industry problem is that handle kit are often dismantled on spray guns.
- Instruction manual not followed; pump pressure not depressurized in hose after pump is closed.
- Inadequate information on risks related to pressure injuries (info should be available with the equipment).

The risk of another similar event can be reduced by:

- Work on all pressurized equipment is risk-assessed and included in equipment-specific training
- Ensure that each part of the equipment is compatible with each other, all safety equipment is present and routines for marking and replacement of equipment are included in procedures
- Safety cards for high-pressure injuries are available to anyone who works with high-pressure work. The hazards of high-pressure injuries are then known to medical personnel
- Safety Alert is made familiar to relevant personnel