

ALERT TOPIC	Pressure Washer Hose Failure - High Potential Facial / Eye Injury	ALERT REFERENCE:	CRL
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Regional Managers, Site Managers Site Operatives and Supervisors Other interested people	AUTHORISED BY:	Chris Donahue
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INTRODUCTION



An incident occurred on Monday 3 August 2026 at Yeovil Police Station involving a diesel pressure washer **3,000 PSI**, approximately **207 bar** supplied by Speedy Hire.

The incident occurred shortly after the equipment had been delivered, during the initial operational check at ground level. Before using the pressure washer, the IP noticed that one of the extension hoses appeared old and worn.

When the pressure washer was started and the system became pressurised, the supervisor noticed a leak approximately 50 mm from the hose connection. As he moved closer to establish whether the leak was coming from the hose or the connection, **the hose suddenly failed under pressure and struck him on the left side of the face, close to his eye.**

The IP was wearing eye protection and fortunately did not sustain an injury requiring first aid or medical treatment. However, given the location and force of the strike, **the incident had clear potential to result in a serious eye or facial injury.**

The machine was immediately shut down and the equipment isolated and reported. The defective equipment was subsequently removed from service and exchanged by Speedy Hire.

As part of its investigation, **Speedy identified that the extension hose was in very poor condition, with the metal reinforcement visible through the outer covering.** Speedy also confirmed that a **used hose had been fitted because a new replacement was unavailable and that no function test had been carried out after the hose was fitted.**

A further concern was identified during CRL's investigation. The supervisor subsequently reviewed previous correspondence and identified the hoses as the same ones he had raised concerns about with Speedy in April. **CRL is seeking Speedy's records to independently confirm the previous defect, return and inspection history.**

Although this incident did not result in a serious injury, it provides an important lesson for everyone using hired plant and equipment. **If equipment appears damaged, worn or in doubtful condition, it must not be used. If a hose, fitting or connection begins leaking while under pressure, do not approach or attempt to investigate it while the system remains pressurised. Shut the equipment down, safely release the pressure, isolate it and report the defect.**

REASON FOR ISSUING THIS ALERT

To share learning from a high-potential equipment failure. If hired plant, hoses or fittings look damaged, worn or leak under pressure, do not use them - stop, isolate and report the defect.

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- All hired plant, hoses, fittings and connections must be visually checked before use. **Do not use equipment that is worn, damaged, leaking or of doubtful condition.**
- Pressure hoses are safety-critical components. **Visible reinforcement, damaged outer coverings or leaks require immediate isolation.**
- Where a hose or connection has been fitted or replaced, **a function test must be completed before the equipment is released for use.**
- If a leak is identified while equipment is pressurised, **shut the equipment down and safely release pressure before approaching or handling the hose.**
- Equipment previously reported as defective must be effectively quarantined, repaired or condemned **so that it cannot be inadvertently returned to service.**
- Site teams must challenge the condition of hired equipment on delivery and **reject any item that does not appear safe or fit for purpose.**
- Defects involving hired plant must be reported promptly to the supplier and CRL management **so the equipment can be isolated and formally investigated.**
- Eye protection and other PPE remain important, but **PPE does not replace the need for safe, inspected and properly maintained equipment.**
- CRL operates a **no-blame culture** - raising concerns about equipment condition helps prevent serious incidents and protects everyone on site.

SHEQ ALERT