

# SAFETY ALERT



## OIL INJECTION TO LEFT THUMB

### INCIDENT

A plant mechanic was bleeding the disc brake callipers on a Dresser 685 rear dump truck when he received a high pressure oil injection under his left thumb nail.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

On completion of a front strut changeout all brake callipers were being bled of air and flushed with oil.

### INVESTIGATION

While bleeding an inside calliper on the rear of the truck the plastic hose fitted to the bleed nipple became dislodged.

Due to oil on his hand and on the bleed hose, the plant mechanic had difficulty in putting the hose back on to the bleed nipple.

In this process his thumb was exposed to 17,500 kpa and oil was injected under his thumb nail causing injury.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Maintenance personnel working on hydraulic equipment should be made aware of the risk potential of high pressure fluid release.
2. Tool box talks should be held with all personnel who have the potential to being exposed to fluids under high pressure.
3. All minesites should identify the potential of high pressure exposure on all items of plant and relevant personnel should be made aware.
4. Where possible hard barriers should be used to protect operations from any high pressure fluid release.
5. Bleed hoses should be secured to the fitting and alternative secured connections should be investigated and implemented where possible.

PLEASE NOTE: This issue was addressed in Safety Alert SA 98-08 and in an additional information package distributed on 15 February 1999. The package was provided for inclusion in MDG 1016, and is available from the Information Counter of the Department of Mineral Resources at St Leonards on (02) 9901 8269.

For additional information contact Ray Smith, Inspector of Mechanical Engineering on 0418 681 023.

### SIGNED OFF

R Regan  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAFETY OPERATIONS