

# Hydraulic injection injury to hand and arm whilst using a hand held grease gun

## WHAT HAPPENED

## Liebherr Safety Alert

An operator was attempting to remove a hand grease gun from a grease nipple after pumping several times and finding it hard. Whilst gripping the hose and manoeuvring it, the hose ruptured and injected grease into his little finger.

### What happened

The operator was using a hand held grease gun to lubricate various grease points on earth moving plant.

He only felt a sharp prick to his little finger and on inspection, he noticed a small hole. On squeezing his finger approximately one teaspoon of grease was ejected. He was not wearing gloves at the time.

Medical attention was sought resulting in a lengthy operation and removal of a vein in the forearm. This was replaced with an artificial vein.

At this time, the operation appears to have been successful. However, constant medical monitoring and surgery care is paramount to a successful rehabilitation.



## LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Inspect equipment prior to use to ensure it is in sound working order with no cuts or damage.
- Check and tighten fittings
- Wear suitable protective gloves when using any equipment with stored energy potential.
- Even relatively low pressure equipment has the potential to inflict hydraulic injection injury
- Grease gun hose was not a strengthened hydraulic pressure (woven/mesh) type but of a rubberised compound only.

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LOCATION: MOBILE PLANT  
ACTIVITY: MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING  
SUB ACTIVITY: N/A

ALERT STATUS: Normal  
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INCIDENT No: 00377