

Toolbox Talk Details

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| Title | F07 - Water jetting |
| Reason | Water jetting can be a dangerous activity if it is not carried out in a controlled manner. High-pressure water, the equipment and additives used can cause serious injury. |
| Outline | This talk covers the dangers associated with water jetting and how they can be overcome. |

Hazards

1. The water jet is usually at a pressure above 140 bar (over 2,000 psi). A misdirected jet hitting a person would cause serious injury or death.
2. Flying debris can also be a cause of injury.
3. Some chemical additives used are hazardous to health.
4. Equipment vibration can also result in health problems.

Safe use

1. Never use water-jetting equipment unless you are trained and authorised to do so.
2. Most water jetting is carried out by teams of three operatives. If you are managing with fewer people, is the work method safe? Working alone will require additional control measures.
3. Water-jetting operations should be isolated to avoid injury to people not involved in the activity.
4. Isolation can be achieved by erecting barriers and signs around the work area, or preferably by removing the item to be jetted to an isolated location.
5. The pressure of the water jet will try to push the person holding the nozzle backwards. A secure footing is needed.
6. If working at height on a scaffold platform, ensure that you are safe. It may be necessary to wear a safety harness and lanyard clipped to a designated anchor point.
7. Ensure that you have been issued with, and wear, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
8. Read the control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) assessments for any substances used or disturbed. (Do not water jet asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), as harmful fibres will be released.)

Equipment maintenance

1. Due to the high pressures involved, it is vital that equipment is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. If any part of the equipment is assembled incorrectly, high-pressure leaks could cause serious personal injury.
3. Daily pre-use equipment checks must be carried out by someone who has been trained, competent and authorised to do so.
4. Do not tamper with the equipment if you do not know what you are doing; you must be properly trained.
5. Do not attempt to adjust the equipment in any way whilst it is pressurised.

| Revision Date | Assessed By | Signature |
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| January 2021 | Michael Reddan |  |