



SAFETY ALERT

Worker Suffers Severe Burn to Foot

Safety Alert: #28 - 2010	RELEASE DATE: October 26, 2010
Incident Type: Personal Injury	Country and Region: Canada, Alberta

Description of Incident:

- A worker using a high-pressure washer in a motor shop was washing parts that were resting on the floor.
- The back and forth of the washer wand motion caused the parts being washed to move and roll around.
- The worker braced a part with their left foot and continued spraying in a back and forth motion
- The worker sprayed their boot with the water stream causing the boot to tear and exposing the skin to the stream.
- The hot water from the washer caused a burn and laceration to the workers foot. Damaged skin required a skin graft for treatment.

What Caused It:

- The spray from the pressure washer came in contact with the employees boot
- The pressure washer was set at 1900 PSI
- The water temperature was set at 63 degrees Celsius
- The worker was using his foot to roll the parts as they washed them

Corrective Actions:

- The pressure of the washer has been reduced to 1200 PSI
- The water spray temperature has been reduced to 32 degrees Celsius
- All workers who use the pressure washer, will be required to be upgraded to metatarsal protected work boots
- Destructive testing on the old and new boots with the old and new set pressures/ temperatures was done to establish the adequacy of personal protective equipment for the task.
- Use of physical control devices to secure equipment or objects worked on to eliminate the potential exposure of a worker to the water stream. Inadequate risk assessment as the hazard of the pressurized scalding water may have been indentified but the worker did not recognize the increased potential of exposure to the water by placing their boot close to the end nozzle of the wand when attempting to stabilize the parts.

CONTACT:

For more information on this event, please contact safety@enform.ca

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