

Incident Learning: What happened?

- While busy sandblasting a pipe, the blaster noticed that there was no grip coming out of the nozzle, he communicated to the pot operator (by waving) to check what was the problem. The pot operator followed the procedure and pumped the pot to get the flow of the grit flowing again. While the sandblaster was still holding the blasting hose in position to continue blasting, the fixed nozzle holder ruptured, the nozzle was pushed by the pressure from the hose. The hose fell down, ricocheted and hit the blasting helmet causing injury to the employee, resulting in lacerations to upper and lower lips.

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Photo of hose with complete fitting, nozzle holder intact



New Nozzle holder inside,
Description: round tube of hardened polyurethane plastic, not designed to keep pressure, it goes over the blast hose with screws and the nozzle turns inside



Photo of dislodged Nozzle and ruptured nozzle holder



Nozzle holder where screws are fitted (by supplier and delivered on the hose)

What are the learnings for implementation?

- Sandblasting nozzle holders must frequently be inspected and maintained to ensure that they are in good working condition.
- Ensure that the sandblasting pots from services are properly flushed out to remove any residual blockages or any foreign objects that may have been accidentally left in the pot or hoses.
- Employees need to be trained on all parts of the equipment they are exposed to.
- All procedures and risk assessments must incorporate control measures aligned with service provider and clients' guidelines.