

## HID Chemical Industries Forum (CIF) Meetings

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### VITAL SECONDS COULD SAVE LIVES IN ULTRA HIGH PRESSURE

#### WATER JETTING OPERATIONS - SAYS HSE

Accidental contact with ultra high pressure water jets can lead to amputation and severe infection due to contaminated water being forced into body tissues. Jetting operators have, until recently, had no real protection against such injuries.

New personal protective clothing and footwear is now available in the UK, which should reduce the likelihood of these injuries due to its increased resistance to penetration by the jet. HSE guidance in the form of a Sector Information Minute on the use of this new personal protective equipment (PPE) was launched today (24 May) at the AGM of the Water Jetting Association in Derby.

Ultra high pressure water jets operating in excess of 25,000 psi are being increasingly used by industry for removal of surface coatings, cleaning and cutting - particularly in the **marine**, **chemical** and **offshore** industries. Jetting can be used to replace other techniques, which have a greater health risk and environmental impact.

Steve Catterall, of the Utilities National Group with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), said: "Typically, if the operator falls over he may accidentally come into contact with the jet before the water flow can be stopped. The new clothing and footwear provides vital seconds to avoid serious injury. "

HSE will now require the use of such clothing and footwear for manual ultra high pressure water jetting. This should be based on a risk assessment to identify the most appropriate type of PPE for a particular job. Jetting operators will also need training and instruction on the use and limitations of the PPE. Such requirements will also apply to jetting operators using hired equipment.

Copies of the guidance are available from the HSE office in Nottingham (tel 0115 971 2800).

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