



SAFETY ALERT

RESTRICTED WORK CASE – WORKER RECEIVES SECOND-DEGREE BURNS CATEGORY: OTHER (ONSHORE) CONTACT LEDCOR HSE FOR MORE DETAILS

Summary of Events:

A worker was tasked with pumping water out of an excavation utilizing a 3-inch water pump. The water pump was set up on the edge of the excavation and water was to be pumped uphill at a 5 degree slope to the approved dewatering area. When the excavation was dewatered, the worker walked over to the pump to shut it off and disconnect the discharge hose. Upon disconnecting the discharge hose hot water ejected from the pump and scalded the worker's hands. As a result the worker received second-degree burns to both hands.



Excavation that was being dewatered.
Water was being pumped up hill



3" Honda water (trash) pump

Major Contributing Factors

The 3" water pump was ran dry which caused the remaining water left in the housing to keep recirculating inside the pump resulting in the water to heat.

The water was being pumped uphill which generated head pressure on the discharge hose. The head pressure was not relieved prior to disconnecting the discharge hose which caused the hot water to release on the worker's hands.

The worker was wearing tight knit gloves (cut resistant) when the hose was disconnected. The hot water was absorbed into the gloves and held tight to the worker's hands which contributed to the time exposure of the hot water remaining on the worker's hands intensifying the injury.

Immediate Preventative Measures

When it's identified that a water pump has been running dry, shut down the pump and allow a cooling period prior to attempting to disconnect the discharge hose or handle the pump.

When disconnecting the discharge hose, disconnect one length of hose away from the pump to eliminate the risk of being contacted with hot water generated from the water pump.

Recommendation to use impervious or full leather gloves when pumping water to protect hands.