

## **METHOD STATEMENT**

### **SAFE USE OF JET WASH EQUIPMENT**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

When using equipment that incorporates the use of electricity and water under pressure the potential for injury can be deemed as high. Always follow the control measures highlighted in the risk assessment as well as the safety reminders in this SSOW.

**(Hi Viz Clothing and Safety boots are Mandatory on Dowse premises)**

#### **PROCEDURE**

1. Prior to using the jet wash carry out a visual inspection of the equipment you will use:
  2. Personal Protective Equipment is needed when using the jet wash. Gloves to be worn to protect the hands from hot water that can scald the skin, and face shield or Goggles to protect the eyes from any particles that may be released when using the jet wash, non-slip safety boots, Trousers & long-sleeved PPE.
  3. Ensure that the Fuel tank (if fitted) has enough fuel to heat the hot water to be used. If the machine does not have adequate fuel then re-fuelling needs to be undertaken. When re-fuelling be aware of the surroundings. If the machine can not be transported to a bunded area then a funnel and a drip tray will be required.
  4. There is an environmental Work Instruction on spillage that is displayed on the office wall. If you are of any doubt then ASK.
  5. Engage the on switch and allow to warm up. When pressure is achieved slowly engage the lance trigger to ensure that the desired level of heat and pressure is being achieved.  
**HOLD LANCE WITH BOTH HANDS (to avoid the initial kick). Do not aim lance at any part of the body (Risk of Water Penetration)**
- The jet wash must only be used in the wash down bay area. When using the jet wash lance there is a high level of pressure being omitted. Care shall be taken to only operate the lance in a safe manner and should never be used in bouts of horse play or mischief. Aim the lance at the area of operation and be aware if using to dislodge any secured material that it can fall at any time, so ensure there is a safe distance between yourself and the material and others are not in the operating area.
  - When operating the jet wash be aware that the lance hoses are potential tripping hazards and there is a potential for slipping on wet and debris covered surfaces. Measures need to be taken by the operator to maintain the area he is working in and ensuring that the hose is in a safe position and not causing a hazard to the operator or others.
  - When closing down the jet wash, clean the debris into the catch pit and leave the area clean and tidy. Ensure that the switch is off. Depress the trigger of the lance to discharge the water remaining in the jet wash. When complete, coil the hose into a manageable and safe condition.
  - **Do not use the pressure washer at height if you are alone on the premises.**
  - **Do Not climb on the tank, wash the top from the gantry.**

### **If you are hurt by a pressure washer:**

- Call 999 if emergency help is needed.
- Take care of any wounds:
- Before treating the wound, wash your hands with soap and clean water.
- Remove any object that is in the way of caring for the wound.
- Put pressure on the wound with a clean cloth to stop bleeding.
- After bleeding has stopped, pour bottled or clean running water over the wound.
- Gently clean around the wound with soap and clean water.
- Pat dry and use an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth to cover the wound.
- Leave unclean wounds open.

Persons who have high pressure spray wounds are urged to get medical attention as soon as possible. A medical professional might X-Ray the injured area, provide a tetanus shot and antibiotics, or make a referral to a specialist.

### *High-Pressure Water Injection Injury Management*

The seriousness of high pressure injection injuries is generally underestimated. The wounds often appear benign, but these injuries can result in serious infection, disability and amputation if not treated appropriately. The potential for serious injury should be considered with any device that produces greater than 100 pounds per square inch (PSI) of pressure.

Immediate recognition of the injury is crucial to successful management.


### **Evaluation**

- Assess the wound (often appears very small and innocuous)
- Assess neurovascular status
- Assess tendon function

### **Treatment**

- X-Ray the injured area to check for presence of subcutaneous air or foreign body
- [Administer tetanus vaccination](#) or ensure that tetanus prophylaxis is up to date
- Administer antibiotics
- Refer urgently to a surgeon for probable wound debridement
- Avoid use of digital blocks



<b>Emergency Procedures:</b>		
	<b>Name of On-Site First Aider:</b>	Paul Gregory Marc Dowse, Paul Gregory
	<b>First Aid Box Location: Eye Wash</b>	Key room, Tea Room, Foyer Next to wash area
	<b>Location of Nearest Hospital:</b>	Scunthorpe
<b>Welfare Requirements</b>	Toilets and water available on Dowse site	
<b>Emergency Contact No.</b>	<b>07860618941</b>	
<b>Other information &amp; Comments</b>		

All work will be undertaken by qualified competent persons with experience of the type of work described above, and in all cases in full accordance with safety procedures specified in the company's health and safety Policy.

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Position:  
Safety Officer

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## **Pressure Washing Safety Tip #1 – Take 5 minutes before the job to think through the task, identify the hazards and how to decrease the risks.**

During this 5 minutes walk around the area where you will be cleaning and ask yourself these questions:

- ▶ **Do I feel ready and up to the task today?** Did you lift weights at the gym yesterday and feel particularly weak. Did you have a late night and feel drowsy.
- ▶ **Is the weather today good for pressure washing?** Power washing in the rain or heavy wind is not the safest.
- ▶ **Is the area clear of hazards?** When you're focusing on the job toys, bikes, pets and even trees can come out of nowhere.
- ▶ **Am I spraying near electrical, open windows or house vents?** Be sure to wrap electrical in plastic, close windows and cover vents to prevent damage from the water spraying.
- ▶ **Do I know what to do if the pressure washer starts making weird noises, pops a leak or starts smoking?** Be sure to have a clear method in your mind what to do if the unthinkable happens.
- ▶ **Am I adequately protecting myself?** Be sure to wear the proper personal protective gear.
- ▶ **How can I get hurt?** Write down all the ways you can get hurt pressure washing today. Everything from tripping to falling down stairs and a car running you over.
- ▶ **What can I do to prevent getting hurt?** Look at the hazards you came up with and think of controls to prevent them from happening. For example, if you need to [pressure wash your driveway](#) and need to have your body in the street to get the end curb – have your friend, wife, neighbour or someone spot you and watch for cars for you.

# Recommended Pressure Washing Personal Protective Equipment

PressureWashr.com



- ▶ **Safety glasses or goggles.** Such a no brainer. Proper safety glasses will prevent flying projectiles entering your eye. And when dealing with high pressure water spraying dirt and debris off surfaces this is simple risk reduction that you need to do.
- ▶ **Enclosed shoes.** Another easy implementation. At best you want to be wearing proper steel toe gumboots or work boots. At worst wear enclosed running shoes.
- ▶ **Gloves.** The most common point of injection injuries is the hand. Wear proper safety gloves.
- ▶ **Ear protection.** Especially needed if you plan on using a [gas powered pressure washer](#) for extended duration. Not necessary with [electric pressure cleaners](#).
- ▶ **Pants.** There is going to be debris flying everywhere. Wear pants to protect your legs even if it is hot outside.