



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Idea

Safety and
Health are
Values!

Dangers of a Failed Hydraulic Hose

When not properly maintained, any hose used in a hydraulic system or connected to a pressure source is a potential danger. Hazards include:

- **Fluid Injections** - Fine streams of pressurized fluid escaping from a damaged hose can enter the body and cause tissue damage. **Remember, hydraulic fluid is TOXIC!**
- **Whipping Hoses** - Whip action of hose ends after hose separates can strike a person with deadly force.
- **Fluid Burns** - Fluid escaping from a damaged hose can burn skin even without igniting.
- **Fires and Explosions** - Escaping fluid exposed to a source of ignition may burn or explode. Guard hoses from exposure to ignition sources.
- **Electrical Shock** - Hoses can contain conductive reinforcement material or conductive fluid. Avoid routing near electrical equipment.
- **Mechanical failure** - Machinery driven or supported by hydraulics can move unexpectedly when a hose supplying that machine fails and results in loss of hydraulic pressure.

Inspect hoses regularly for:

- Exposed reinforcement wires
- Leaks
- Damaged or corroded fittings
- Excessive dirt or grease buildup
- Missing guards, shields, and clamps

Safety Links:

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- [Parker Hose Safety Page](#)
- [Gates Corporation Hydraulic Hose Safety Page](#)
- [Hose Life Article](#)
- [Hydraulic System Safety Article](#)