

DANGER OF HYDRAULIC OIL INJECTION INJURIES



A hydraulic fluid injection is perhaps the most dangerous injury that can result from a hydraulic hose failure. It can appear benign at the beginning so it often gets dismissed as not urgent and medical care is postponed. Injected hydraulic oils are also highly toxic - so in addition to a physical cut or stab, they actually poison you.

Take an MSDS sheet of the hydraulic oil with you to the emergency room. Inform the medical staff that you have suffered hydraulic oil injection injury when you arrive. Have someone find out as much as possible about the hydraulic system pressure and estimated velocity of the pinhole leak that caused the injury. Report these findings to the medical staff.

The longer the wait before treatment, the higher the risk. At first, injections may feel like a bee sting or wire prick. The entry area may look like a pin prick. Do not let this fool you. The size of the entry wound is a poor indicator of the seriousness of the injury. What looks like a simple puncture wound can be life threatening. The area around the injury typically turns red and swells within a couple of hours. Throbbing and numbness follow. If left untreated, the injury can lead to amputation and even death.

REMEMBER:

- **NEVER TOUCH A PRESSURIZED HOSE WITH YOUR HAND.**
- **USE A PIECE OF CARDBOARD TO SEARCH FOR A HYDRAULIC LEAK INSIDE A CABINET OR UNDER AN ENGINE HOOD.**
- **IF YOU SUSPECT AN INJECTION INJURY HAS OCCURRED, GET TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM RIGHT AWAY!**