

SAFETY ALERT



ARTC NSW No. 10

Issued: 05-10-05

SMALL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT – STARTING PETROL AND DIESEL MOTORS

Background: There have been several incidents over the past few weeks where employees have received injuries while trying to start small plant and equipment that is powered by either a petrol or diesel motor.

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

- The motors in question are all of the “chord, pull-start” type.
- Some of the diesel powered motors were fitted with “de-compression” valves, while there were some that did not have this valve fitted
- The motors in question were all 10hp or above
- The basic cause of the injuries related back to a build up of compression within the motors
- This build up of compression either caused the “pull chord” to pull back violently or in some cases come to a sudden stop and “jam”.

ACTION REQUIRED

- All work teams to be advised of these incidents
- All work teams to be instructed to take extreme care when starting plant and equipment that is powered by petrol and diesel motors
- The possible risk associated with starting these types of motors needs to be highlighted on daily pre-work briefs and/or Work Method Statements
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PLEASE NOTE:- The possible replacement of the “chord, pull starts”, with alternate starting mechanisms, is currently being investigated as is the provision of competency based training in the use of this type of equipment