



Source: Master MV Terschelling

# Working with high pressure cleaning tools

## Factsheet

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**Working with high pressure cleaning tools can be a dangerous job, for several reasons.**

### Why might it be dangerous to work with high pressure cleaning tools?

The high-pressure jet can be dangerous when aimed on yourself or other persons. You can wound yourself or others. Furthermore, there is a risk for hand/arm vibrations, inhalation of aerosols, electrocution when aiming the waterjet at electric tools and loose elements can be blown away.

### Example of a recent accident

Recently an officer wounded himself by accidentally spraying on his own safety boot. However, this regular safety boot was unsuitable PPE with regard to the high-pressure cleaning tool. A small hole in the upper part of the boot arose and as a consequence a tendon in his foot was damaged. He had to be evacuated from the ship for surgery in a shore-hospital.

### How can you prevent accidents when working with high pressure cleaning tools?

- Make sure you are trained in using the tool.
- Read the manual.
- Define the spray area clearly and provide a safe delimited distance around the spray area.
- Clean up before starting to spray.
- Work in couples: one person for spraying and one person to guide the hose and to keep an eye on the surroundings.
- Always stand on a stable underground, when spraying.
- When changing position, pause spraying.
- Use the correct PPE (safety-boots, -clothes, -goggles, hearing protection).

### Always remember:

Water jetting is also used to cut steel!  
The waterjet contains a lot of energy and might be harmful to your colleagues and yourself.

**The Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate works at improving safety, confidence and sustainability in regard to transport, infrastructure, environment and housing.**

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