

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2005/8



Safe Working with Hydraulic Rescue Tools

The following Safe Working Practices must be adopted by all operational personnel when using hydraulic rescue tools at emergency incidents and training exercises:

- ✓ Wear protective clothing; a minimum standard includes, eye and ear protection, long sleeved work shirt, duty wear trousers, boots and gloves. Helmets should be worn and high visibility vests are to be considered depending upon incident conditions.
- ✓ When operating a tool never place yourself between the tool and the vehicle.
- ✓ Hydraulic hoses are susceptible to damage and care must be used. Damaged hose should never be used and must be withdrawn from service.
- ✓ Do not stand on or use hydraulic hose to carry, pull or move other tools or the pump associated with use.
- ✓ Vehicle components that may be ejected due to shearing or compressive forces associated with cutting or spreading must be controlled.
- ✓ Tools not in use should be returned to the tool staging area and left in the "stowed" position (i.e. fully closed then slightly opened).
- ✓ Hydraulic rescue tools should only be carried and operated using the proper handles
- ✓ Operators must be aware that hydraulic tools work at extremely high pressures. Tool operations must stop immediately if there is any sign of fluid leakage, hose or tool damage.

Warning! Never place your hands on the arms or blades of a hydraulic rescue tool.

Reference: Vehicle Extrication Techniques – Holmatro

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

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Previous Operations Bulletin: 2005/7 Entry to Trenches and other Earthen Complexes