

# Fire and Rescue NSW Safety Bulletin 2012/04 Holmatro hydraulic cutters



## Issue

There have been a number of incidents reported where the blades on the Holmatro hydraulic cutters have failed. On one occasion, this caused a small piece of metal to fly off the blade in a projectile-like manner. This could cause serious injury to operators, casualties or bystanders.

## Action required

Station Commanders at stations with Holmatro cutters must ensure that the blades are regularly inspected for:

- indentations
- fractures, and
- damage or any deformation.

If any of these signs are evident, the equipment must be immediately withdrawn from service and the Rescue Section at Greenacre notified.

## Risk management

Operators are reminded to:

1. Perform SIMS checks.
2. Adhere to the routine servicing program.
3. Adhere to recommended practices, using the tool only for the functions for which it was designed, and being aware of limitations of the tool.
4. Wear the appropriate PPE while using any equipment.



## WARNING

Catastrophic failure of this piece of equipment can occur if it is used for purposes beyond which it is designed or if incorrect techniques are employed.

For example, when the cutters are used to cut materials that are made of harder metal than the blades, failure can result causing serious injury. While the Holmatro cutters are designed to safely cut high strength steel, they should not be used to cut through vehicle door hinges or seat belt mounts.

**Personnel operating any hydraulic rescue equipment are instructed to wear a structural firefighting helmet with visor down AND safety glasses, as opposed to the general purpose helmet.**

**Crews are also advised to employ proper risk management strategies and recognise the risk to others in the vicinity of operations.**

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Noted: Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other
Checked: Duty Commander					

**Previous Safety Bulletin:** 2012/03, *Voltage detector use*