

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## Multi-Jet Pump Fire

### What happened:

On the 29<sup>th</sup> February at C350 Pudding Mill Lane, a multi-jet pump caught fire when it was being used for Hydro-demolition works. Attempts to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers were unsuccessful; however the fire was extinguished using water from the nearby hydrant.

The fire was caused by a catastrophic failure of the exhaust system which ruptured the flexible coupling. This allowed hot gases to rapidly escape and accumulate under the GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastic) hood.

Upon investigation of the incident, the owner of the pump provided copies of maintenance logs dating back to 2012, which were detailed and thorough. Despite this high level of maintenance, problems with internal corrosion in the exhaust system had not been identified.

### Future Considerations:

- All sites to acknowledge similar failures of the exhaust could happen in any other similar piece of plant.
- Consider periodically dismantling exhaust systems in similar plant/machinery to inspect the internal integrity of individual components.
- All sites to consider conducting a survey to determine how much plant of a similar nature and usage could be affected by similar conditions.
- Due consideration must be given to the siting of equipment or plant that contain GRP due to its highly flammable nature.



Multi-jet pump before and after fire



Exhaust showing corrosion



PEOPLE & PLANT



FIRE/HOT WORK

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016



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