



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 52-26

Date: August 27, 2026

Airless Sprayer Hose Whip Incident

WHAT HAPPENED

A GIS employee was operating a Graco Xtreme X60 airless sprayer when material stopped flowing due to an apparent hose blockage. The operating pressure was increased in an attempt to restore flow. The hose then moved/whipped unexpectedly and struck the employee in the neck.

The event was classified as a **PSIF (Potential Significant Injury or Fatality Risk)** because the hose could have struck the face or eye, causing a far more serious injury. The equipment is capable of pressures up to 6,000 psi.



LESSONS LEARNED

- **Never increase pressure to overcome a blockage.** A blockage is an abnormal condition, not a production problem to push through.
- **Stop and safely depressurize/isolate the equipment.** Place the system in a safe state before troubleshooting or breaking connections.
- **Follow the established procedure.** The review found the hose should have been disconnected and manually flushed rather than pressurized against the obstruction.
- **Treat hoses and blocked lines as stored-energy hazards.** Position personnel away from potential release paths and hose-whip zones.

When the task changes, reassess before continuing. Stop, discuss the change, update the JSEA/controls as needed, and verify Safe to Start.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.

SAFETY ALERT

