

OHS ALERT



Hazard	Explosion within the hose and fittings connected to high pressure oxygen tanks
Incident	Significant head and face injuries which resulted in the loss of sight in both eyes, and multiple skull and facial fractures
Date	18/07/2011



What happened?

At a welding and fabrication facility, during onsite installation and maintenance of fluid gas equipment, a worker was switching over the gas lines from the empty to full high pressure oxygen tanks.

An explosion occurred within the hose and fittings connected to the high pressure oxygen tanks and they broke away from the tanks and struck a worker with considerable force on the face and head. He sustained significant injuries to his head and face, which resulted in the loss of sight in both eyes, and multiple skull and facial fractures.

It was found that the installed hose was designed primarily for hydraulics, and not designed for use with high-pressure oxygen.

Both the facility owner and the specialist installation/maintenance contractor were charged with breaches of the NSW OHS Act 2000, and were fined \$95'000 and \$60'000 respectively. Click [here](#) for more information.

Actions for the local area

1. Ensure hose fittings are certified for use and appropriate for the gases being used.
2. Undertake a risk assessment of all high pressure gas operations.
3. Ensure that changes to gas-lines or pipes are carried out by qualified gas fitters and in accordance with the safety instructions of the designer, manufacturer or supplier of the equipment.

