

## Injury – struck by object whilst using compressed air.

<b>Date of incident</b>	14-05-2025	<b>Incident type</b>	HIPO
<b>Time of incident</b>	16.00	<b>Location</b>	Kendal, Cumbria

### Summary of Incident

During piling works using the Down the Hole Hammer Spiral Flush technique, it was noted that the hammer was not working at optimal performance due to strata clogging the piston.

To solve this, it was decided by the site team to stop work and use water to flush the system.

This involved removing a t-piece cap to introduce a water feed into the pneumatic hose.

However, the hose had not been fully depressurised and compressed air remained in part of the system.

The removal of the cap resulted in the uncontrolled sudden release of compressed air, blowing the cap into the IP's leg with sufficient force to both dislocate their ankle and break the tibia.

### Initial findings

Compressed air was still trapped in the system between two sets of valves (one set of which should have been opened).

This was not apparent as there was no pressure gauge provided for the affected section of the hose.

The lack of pressure gauge and the lack of familiarity of the system (this is a new technique for Keller in the UK), led to the incident occurring.

### Immediate actions

A system schematic (showing positions of exhaust valves and pressure gauges) and technique specific training will be provided for all Keller techniques, with compressed-air systems a priority.

### Photographs/supporting information

