



SUBJECT: Serious Hand Injury During Removal of Jammed Core Liner

Reference No.: [REDACTED]

Compiled By: [REDACTED]

Date of Issue: 09/04/2026

What happened

On Monday, 30/03/2026 a subcontractor rotary drilling crew were working on the [REDACTED] Project, undertaking rotary coring within bedrock, when a serious hand injury occurred during the removal of a **jammed / stuck plastic core liner** from a **Geobore-S wireline rotary core barrel**.

During drilling in the fractured bedrock, the core liner became jammed within the inner barrel. Following unsuccessful attempts by conventional means to remove the liner in the **horizontal position**, the barrel was then **hoisted into the vertical position** on the rig using the wireline winch.

During this activity, a section of core became dislodged and dropped out of the liner, **crushing the assistant driller's finger against the clamp jaws**.

This resulted in a **serious laceration, fracture and partial amputation of the assistant drillers finger**. Later in hospital, it was deemed best to amputate the damaged segment of finger.

This was a **RIDDOR-reportable incident**.



Photo 1: Arrow pointing to crush zone.

Immediate learning

- This incident involved a **non-routine recovery task** that introduced **line-of-fire, stored energy, falling object, and pinch point** hazards.
- The key failing was a **change in method without adequate risk assessment, supervision, or authorisation**

Immediate Safety Instruction – Effective Now

The following is **PROHIBITED** with immediate effect:

DO NOT:

- **Hoist or suspend a wireline core barrel vertically** for the purpose of removing a jammed or stuck liner.
- Attempt to remove a stuck liner from a **suspended wireline barrel**.
- Place **hands or fingers beneath, inside, or in front of the liner or barrel opening** during extraction attempts.
- Use **improvised methods** to remove jammed liners without approval.
- Continue applying force where the liner does not move under **controlled, low-force extraction**.



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- Use **heat, high-pressure compressed air**, or other uncontrolled methods to free liners.

Mandatory Safe System of Work – Interim Control

If a liner becomes jammed or stuck:

- 1) STOP WORK**
- 2) KEEP THE BARREL HORIZONTAL**
- 3) EXCLUDE HANDS FROM THE DANGER ZONE**

No person is to place fingers / hands:

- **under the liner,**
- **inside the barrel mouth,**
- **between clamps / grips / jaws,**
- **or in any pinch / crush zone.**

4) ESCALATE

5) COMPLETE A POINT OF WORK RISK ASSESSMENT: A **dynamic risk assessment (Point of Work Risk Assessment)** must be completed **before** any non-routine extraction or recovery method is used.

6) ONLY USE APPROVED METHODS: Only approved, low-risk methods (eg stripping the barrel fully down) are to be used pending further technical review and formal issue of revised guidance.

Potential Causes of Jammed / Stuck Liners

Jammed liners may indicate **ground conditions, tooling issues, or equipment condition problems**, including:

- swelling clays / mudstone
- fractured ground with fines causing wedge-locking
- dented / bent / non-circular inner or outer barrels
- worn bearings
- worn / damaged core catcher
- worn bit / reamer / stabiliser
- poor barrel setup or assembly
- blocked vent holes
- vibration, bent rods or unstable rig setup
- incorrect or unsuitable liner selection for the ground conditions

⚠ Remember: Our priority is that everyone comes to work and leaves work safely.