



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Engineering and Support Center,  
Huntsville

# Safety Office

## Mishap Lessons Learned



### **Subject: Pressure Testing**

**Event:** A worker brought a water pump to pressure test a 3-inch steam line. The SSHO noticed that there were no any markings on the line stating that the line was pressure rated for at least 500 psi and questioned the worker and foreman. The foreman insisted that the hoses had been used many times to conduct this test and they worked fine.

The SSHO accepted the answer and the worker proceeded with the test. When the pressure reached 500psi, a hole was blown in the portion of the hose hooked up to the pump and a worker standing on a 6' ladder nearby was hit on the forearm by the hose as it whipped back. The force knocked off the worker's hard hat and bruised his forearm. This mishap could have resulted in a more severe injury had the worker been knocked off the ladder or hit in the head.



\*Not actual mishap pictures. For illustration only

### **Root Causes:**

- An unrated hose was used to conduct pressure testing
- The SSHO recognized a hazard, but failed to stop the unsafe practice from continuing.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Ensure all testing components are adequate for the required test pressures.
- Safety is everybody's responsibility. If you see an unsafe act while on a jobsite, it is your responsibility to stop it.
- Use the right equipment for the job & use applicable ASME Standards to develop a SOP including a field checklist for each particular pressure testing application.