

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



A **PILING RIG** was operating when a high level joint connection in the concrete pumping line failed, causing it to blow out and discharge concrete on to the area below. The steel wire hose restraint, connecting the two parts of the connection served its purpose and prevented the steel end of the rubber hose falling to the ground below and potentially causing injuries. Most of the sprayed concrete was contained in the immediate vicinity of the rig, and no one was injured

The cause of the joint failure was that the coupler that attached the lower rubber flex-pipe to the rigid steel 'swan neck' outlet at the top of the rig was a mix of mismatched metric to imperial joint fittings, despite only imperial fittings being specified. The resulting gap had created enough slack in the joint to cause the blowout once under working pressure.

The photo shows a plan view of the mismatched metric and imperial components, supplied by the manufacturer that caused the blow out under pressure.

Be aware that equipment could be supplied with metric connections when it is expected to have imperial – even when imperial sizes are specified.

The steel wire whip arrest/restraint prevented the hose falling and therefore prevented further issues.

