

# Safety and health alert

## 26/95 Exploding line marker fractures skull

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### Incident

A school gardener/handyperson used a 25 litre Fountain line marker to mark out a running track for a school sports carnival. The line marker was supplied by the Fountain Linemarker Company of Kogarah, NSW.

The drum of the line marker exploded along the length of the seam during pressurisation by a portable air compressor. The line marker struck the man on the head, fracturing his skull. The compressor should not have exceeded 350 kPa (50 p.s.i.g). The evidence suggests these directions were adhered to on this occasion.

### Factors

1. The explosion was consistent with over pressurisation. The line marker was not designed or constructed to withstand the pressure.
2. No pressure relief valve or pressure gauge was fitted.
3. The machine was not designed or constructed to AS 1210 (Unfired Pressure Vessels Code).

### Recommendations

1. Despite the manufacturer's directions, a compressor should not be used to pressurise a Fountain line marker. A hand pump should be used at all times.
2. Fountain line marker machines that are old or damaged should be checked by the manufacturer or supplier before any further use.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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