

## TECHNICIAN SERIOUSLY INJURED AT FOURWAYS ILLEGAL USE OF HOME MADE PRESSURE VESSEL



Fig. 1

The accident reported here took place at a supermarket in Fourways in the early afternoon of Monday 20th November 2006. This  $\frac{3}{4}$  hp ice cream freezer was receiving attention. Presumably the compressor was being replaced. The contractor was cleaning out the system with a flushing product known as R121.

He used this home-made dosing pot, connected into the system, with the flushing agent first being poured in. He then connected this, via his charging hose, to a nitrogen cylinder to pressurise in order to drive the cleaning agent through the system.

Apart from using an **ILLEGAL** pressure vessel, he **FAILED** to use a **PRESSURE REGULATOR** on the nitrogen cylinder. Through an adaptor screwed into the cylinder, he connected up with his charging set.



Fig. 2

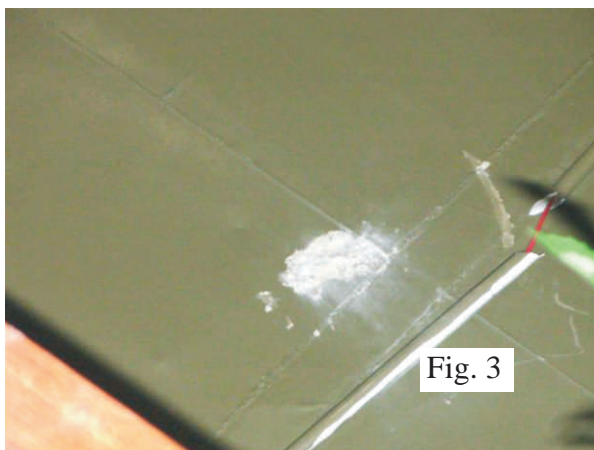


Fig. 3

A blockage occurred, and the fluid stopped feeding. The cap of the cylinder was blasted off the dosing pot with sufficient force to gouge this hole into the concrete ceiling.

The cap of the homemade dosing cylinder had been placed back on top of the dosing cylinder before the photograph of Fig. 2 was taken.

The technician was resting his hand on the cylinder at the time. His hand received critical injuries. Surgeons have attempted to stitch it together again, but at this time it is unsure whether his hand will be saved.



Fig. 4