Avalauncher Safety Bulletins

At Avalanche Mitigation Services (AMS) we pride ourselves on exclusively offering documentable advice. Gates is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of hydraulic hose. Per their literature: “Gates is known as the world’s most trusted hydraulic hose assembly manufacturer.” Gates confirms below that under no circumstance should hydraulic hose be used in any regard on your Avalaunchers. That is why AMS has always used Teflon cored high pressure pneumatic hose, never rubber hydraulic hose. Compressed gas and explosives are not to be trifled with- don’t wait for an accident before using the correct product for the application.

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Gates policy:
Do not use hydraulic hose to transmit high pressure gases. Note: any pressure above 500psi.
Therefore:
Our hydraulic hose is not to be used in any application where the pressure could ever go above 500 psi gas. If the Supply Tank Pressure is over 500 psi then under no circumstance should our hydraulic hose be used in that application.

Another safety item that continually comes up concerns loading protocols for Avalaunchers. The designers of the Avalauncher and Avalanche Mitigation Services both insist upon loading projectiles with just the standard 50 psi storage pressure in the machine. In a worst case scenario, one that has never occurred to our knowledge, if an Avalauncher were to misfire during loading you would much rather have 50 psi escaping than full Target Pressure. Some insist that a projectile is inside the machine for less time if the launcher is brought up to Target Pressure prior to loading- this is not a valid argument to either Avalanche Mitigation Services or the machine’s inventors. Please contact us with any comments or concerns. John Brennan
jb@avalanchemitigationservices.com