

# Beware of hydraulics that bump in the night – or come knocking 24/7

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EINPresswire.com/ -- Because there is so much pressure of work on earthmovers, miners, construction and infrastructure, and transport operators right now, many are working shifts well on into the day and night to meet their clients' demands.



Increasingly complex hydraulically actuated machinery stops dead without correct hoses, fitting, and service

Such 24/7 service puts immense pressure on the hydraulic systems of static and mobile machinery essential to their tasks, including graders, diggers, trucks, forklifts, forest and agricultural harvesters, road and rail maintenance equipment, and fixed and mobile cranes.

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*Denis Matulin, Managing Director - Hydraulink Australia*

“Virtually everything depends on hydraulics in the world of lifting, moving and heavy machinery. Properly functioning hydraulic actuation provides the muscle to do the job safely and quickly,” says Denis Matulin, Managing Director, [Hydraulink Australia Pty Ltd](#), which is part of the Hydraulink group with more than 400 service points throughout Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania.

Done well, hydraulic servicing can save money and enhance safety on diesel-powered vehicles and machinery

of all sizes. Done poorly – just patching up machinery malfunctions, or ignoring warning signs – is an open door to higher costs and a welcome mat to accidents.

"If hydraulic service has been done poorly, often the first you may know about it is when hydraulic actuation stops dead. Or the machine may let you know something is wrong through abnormal noise, which experienced operators will immediately recognise as a sign of things to come."

Apart from costly and extended downtime, a single fault can be deadly where earthmoving equipment is shifting tonnes of rubble in a single bite, harvesting tons of valuable produce in a narrow time frame, grading slopes on infrastructure, lifting loads into heavy trucks and specialist vehicles.

So how to you know if you are doing right or wrong?

"The issue of efficient, effective and safe hydraulic hose service isn't as simple as having a shed of likely spares on-site and a mobile contact for someone you can call out sometime after something goes wrong. One of the most important things to have is service staff or service partners who know your machinery, your sites, your work priorities and are available 24/7," says Matulin.

The partnership needs to be like a hand in a glove – the people who are serving you ideally need to know, before they arrive on site, what's likely to be expected and how to fix it. Ideally, they need to know both the machinery and the site conditions, which is a matter of experience and efficiency. Otherwise every new issue is a big lesson at the machinery owners' expense. "If you have to spend half a day educating different people turning up each time, you are wasting your money and your time – then getting a bill for it," says Matulin.



Forestry and farming harvesting can operate in demanding conditions and to tight seasonal timelines where machinery reliability is critical



Service partners need to have through familiarity with individual sites and corporate practices – otherwise time and money can be wasted educating them and being billed for it

“And if the new service person doesn’t know the safety protocols for your industry, or he is not continuously educated in this changing field, then you may be taking a culpable risk. That’s no exaggeration. It is the employers’ responsibility, the site owners’ responsibility, to ensure people coming on site have the right qualifications for the job in hand. Otherwise it is back to the classroom again, at your expense.”

While experienced staff or partners are essential to predict and prevent failures – with associated time and safety costs and hazards – Matulin says there are some basic checks owners can undertake to help ensure things are right with their costly investments.

These include checking for wear on the outer cover of hoses; leaks at the end of the hose; exposed wires; and removal of kinks or twists in the hose that will prevent flow and cause early failure. Obviously, prevention here is better than cure, so these are essential routine observations that a competent technician will check so as to prevent breakdown or safety issues arising from failure.

Where you need expert – and honest – assistance

Because hydraulic service is a major safety, compliance and traceability issue, the first and major need is trust in your supplier based on experience. “Why would you use cheap, second-rate or unproven service on expensive equipment – it does not make sense.

“Fair and cost-efficient prices are always a top priority in a competitive business. But fair prices need to be backed by proven integrity of practice demonstrated over multiple jobs and years by frank and honest relationships where options and solutions are openly discussed. No cost surprises at the end of a job – everyone hates them.”

Do, however, ask the right questions of anyone who comes on your site:

1. What are their safety compliances relevant to your site? These are absolutely top of the list because all decent operators want to protect their workers – and it is the first thing a statutory body will ask for if there is an accident. Don’t be non-compliant – it can and does shut down business.
2. What is their experience relevant to your machinery and your industry? Familiarity with customer sites and very diverse machinery being worked upon is important, so service technicians do not cost time, money and downtime learning the job at the customer’s expense. Typically, a skilled technician familiar with multiple machinery typical of an industry can do a better job in less than half the time taken by a less skilled or DIY operator.
3. What programmes of continuing education are they involved in? Hydraulic machinery is a fast-moving field, and what was good enough 10 years ago might not be right today. Hydraulink

invests in education and training. It might not appear as an item on any invoice, but it is a basis of competence, confidence and trust.

4. What backing does the individual have – are they continuously involved as part of a big team or are they more of a lone ranger? Can they come out 24/7 if they have to, do they have 4wds to do the remote jobs when these come up, do they have the workshop facilities to handle the bigger jobs needed by all big machinery from time to time?

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