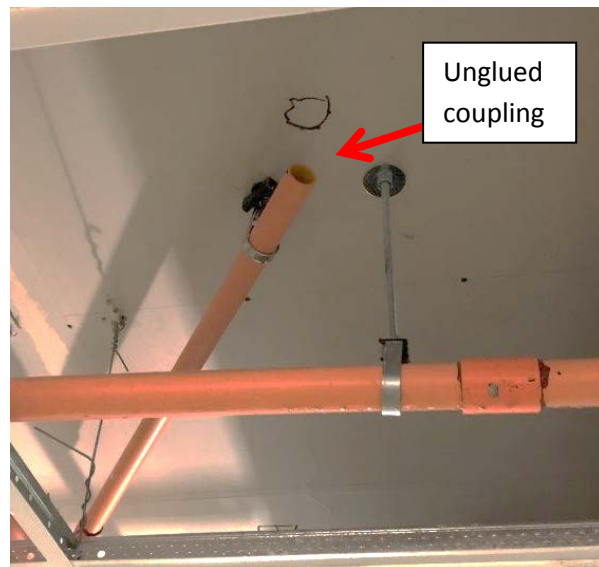


Safety Flash

Incident with Property Damage

Incident: During a hydro-test by the subcontractor, a sprinkler line head came off at an unglued coupling and caused a water leak down the second-floor wall to the first floor. The sprinkler line had held during a previous 40-pound air test.



Possible contributing factors

- The crew assumed that the 40-pound air test, per the manufacturer's recommendation, verified that the system was glued properly and watertight.
- Foremen and crew members had been rotated in/out during the project, so the crew was not consistent.
- The coupling was not visually inspected to verify that it had been glued before water-testing.
- The subcontractor worker did not completely glue the drop after measuring and installation were complete.
- When air was applied to the system, the crew did not visually inspect all joints for glue.
- The subcontractor did not have a policy and procedure requiring visual inspection of the system before water testing.

Primary contributing factor

- The subcontractor did not have a policy and procedure requiring visual inspection of the system before water testing.

Possible solutions

- Develop a procedure to mark and inspect plastic pipe glue joints before charging the system.
- Perform a checklist/sign off before water testing.
- Implement the procedure and train workers on it throughout the company.
- Maintain as-built drawings to keep new workers informed of the project history and updates.
- Consider pre-fabricating pipe and joints to reduce the amount of onsite work.

Action plan

- The subcontractor is developing a checklist and training procedure.
- Workers will update drawings with current work and future installation plans.
- Prefabrication options for plastic pipe will be investigated.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Chad Metzger, Lima, 419/279-5348 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.