

## Safety Flash

### Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 5/31/2023

#### The Incident

An associate was working from a ladder in a mechanical room. As the associate was turning back from the equipment they were working on, their foot slipped off of the step and the associate fell onto a valve stem puncturing their leg, which required OSHA recordable medical treatment.

#### The Causes

- The stepladder was not the correct choice to work from.
- Associate was in an awkward work position.
- Inadequate hazard recognition in pre-planning.

#### Prevent It

- "Take 2" when the initial work plan does not meet safety requirements. Take the necessary time to acquire the proper tools to perform the job safely.
- Put a cover over the valve stem to eliminate sharp edges.
- Develop a department specific S.T.A.C. card that is better suited for their work environment.

#### Action Plan

- Retrain the entire department in the following areas: proper hazard and task analysis, proper tool evaluation, ladder safety and the GEM "Take 2" safety program.

#### Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.