

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 10/9/2020

The Incident

An associate was using a torch to remove soldering on a refrigerant pipe line. As the pipe was being heated, some residual fluids in the piping turned into gas. This pressurized the line, which blew the piping and the site glass apart and allowed a foreign body to enter the associate's eye. The medical treatment needed resulted in an OSHA recordable incident.

The Causes

- The associate used heat instead of cutting the pipe.
- Task-specific PPE was not used.
- The associate did not mechanically open a section of the pipe.
- There was a lack of training specific to hazard recognition and the procedure for line breaking.

Prevent It

- Incorporate a more thorough pre-task plan specific to HVAC/R tasks in new hire orientation.
- Reinforce the importance of pre-task planning, and utilizing a cutting vs. heating application as a default procedure.

Action Plan

- Findings from this review will be shared with the crew.
- Incorporate a more thorough HVAC/R section in the new hire orientations.

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.