

Safety Flash

Incident with Property Damage

Incident: In an active hospital hallway, a subcontractor crew was installing 4-inch pipe in the ceiling when they encountered a congested area. The workers forced the pipe through, damaging existing pipe and insulation. The crew installing the pipe knew the damage had occurred, but did not report it to their supervisor or RLI.

Possible contributing factors:

- There was inadequate space for installing new pipe due to existing utilities in the ceiling.
- A wall was being constructed to contain the work area, limiting the ability to install pipe from a less congested location.
- The crew felt pressured to complete the task for the next work activity and did not stop when they realized they could not fit the pipe in without interfering with existing pipe.
- The hallway could not be shut down to complete the work and there was a time crunch to open the hallway ASAP.



Possible primary contributing factor:

- The crew felt pressured to complete the task for the next work activity and did not stop when they realized they could not fit the pipe in without interfering with existing pipe.

Possible solutions:

- Fabricate new piping.
- Evaluate work areas for potential conflicts.
- Make sure workers understand that they are expected to stop if they can't follow the plan and they must notify RLI of incidents.
- Subcontractors must continue to improve communication with RLI.

Action Items:

- The worker who forced the pipe through was terminated by the subcontractor.
- RLI reviewed the incident and notification procedure with all subcontractors.
- The subcontractor held a meeting with all workers on the project to ensure that they understand that they must stop work and notify the foreman if there is any conflict or change in the original plan.
- RLI will facilitate team building with subcontractors.
- Workers on the jobsite will continue pre-task planning twice a day.

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; Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283 or Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639.