

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.