

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 2/21/2024

The Incident

An associate was making repairs at a facility that had frozen pipes. While making repairs to the system the associate noticed water dripping from a strainer. When feeling the water he made note it was cold not boiling. As the associate was loosening the plug to the strainer, they noticed the water was under pressure. Before they could tighten the plug back up the pressure in the system blew the plug out releasing hot water which burned the associate's hand resulting in OSHA recordable medical treatment.

The Causes

- The line was still under pressure.
- The valve to shut the water off was broken. The associate saw that the valve was in the closed position, but did not verify it.
- The system was damaged from freezing conditons

Prevent It

- Verify that both the valve is in the closed position, and that the water flow is shut off.
- Question the integrity of all lines before starting work when dealing with frozen systems.
- Check with the customer to see if the entire system can be shut down before beginning work.

Action Plan

- Safety Flash for company-wide distribution.
- Revise approved medical facility list and distribute.
- Best Practices training will be provided for appropiate assoicates.

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.