

# Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 9/21/21

Region: Montana

Project: Rocky Mountain Lab

Incident Title: Broken procedure, broken pipe

## Summary

Employee was working in the attic of Building 8 located on the Rocky Mountain Lab, installing an electric air filter on the attic furnace. In the process the employee was working adjacent to an active CPVC fire sprinkler piping. While removing the pleated filter, the filter became snug and to protect the piping, the employee had one hand on the CPVC pipe and the other pulling out the filter. When the filter gave way, it hit the CPVC at the t-fitting causing the pipe to break, discharging water throughout the space. No one was injured during this incident only facility damage occurred at this time.



## What Went Right?

- Employee reported it immediately
- Water was shut off

## What Went Wrong?

- Improper hazard and risk assessment in a tight work environment
- Lack of protection of other piping

## Lessons Learned

- **Bullet proof work area prior to working in the area.**
- **Shutoff system prior to working, if possible, to prevent further damage.**
- **Be aware on any active systems and properly implement the correct working procedures.**