

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 01/17/2022

Region: Reno, Nevada

Project: Tesla C Building

Incident Title: Pipe Penetration

Summary

Apollo employee was drilling small holes into dry wall for studs to mount Unistrut for hangers. Upon drilling into the drywall, employee hit what was thought to be a stud, but was a fire water riser, penetrating the pipe. Though a stud finder was used, pipe was adjacent to the stud, mistaking a pipe for a stud in the wall. Water released for several hours while facility attempted to shut it down, resulting in pipe and drywall damage.



What Went Right?

- Facility was notified immediately
- Safety & team member notified
- Water buggies were placed to catch spraying water
- Pipe was repaired the same day 1/17/2022
- No one was injured
- Water was kept out of all clean rooms

What Went Wrong?

- Stud finder was used, but adjacent pipe was mistaken for a stud
- Employee hit a block, but switched drill bit to 1/8" and continued to drill
- Facilities did not fully shut water off for a few hours after the incident

Lessons Learned

- Only drill when needed, review task with foreman to ensure drilling is the only option
- Inspect contents inside wall / use stud finder
- Utilize stud finder data to identify clear spot / no stud or object in wall, that will be drill location
- Verify piping locations in drawings & specs, confirm with stud finder
- Switch to different anchor style / no drill bit drilling
- Use toggles in sheet rock wall clear spot instead of tech screw in stud.