

Lessons Learned

Date:	6/6/2022	Region:	Mountain
Project:	Denver Fab Shop	Incident Title:	Pencil Reamer Fails

Summary	Picture
<p>A pencil reamer was in use by a Journeyman plumber in the Denver Fab Shop.</p> <p>While reaming a ½” copper pipe, the pencil reamer broke. When using a pencil reamer, the user typically holds the pipe in one hand, and the reamer in the other and while maintaining pressure on the inside of the pipe with the reamer, the user runs the reamer around the inside of the pipe in a circular motion to ream the pipe.</p> <p>When his pencil reamer broke the isometric force from the pipe to the reamer suddenly was gone, which causing him to strike his other arm with the end of the ½” copper pipe, resulting in a cut.</p>	

What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee got first aid right away • Cut did not require stitches • Safety was informed immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool broke • Pipe could have been supported and not held • Potential hazard of reamer breaking was not realized

Lessons Learned

It is relatively common for a pencil reamer to break over time. When it does, and the pipe is being held with the other hand, the user is subjected to a possible injury due to contact with the reamer or pipe to the opposing arm. Secure the pipe rather than hold it or consider a different reamer type such as the one shown in the picture above.