

Lessons Learned

Date:	12/1/2022	Region:	Mountain
Project:	Swedish Tower	Incident Title:	Hierarchy of Controls

Summary	Picture
<p>Apollo was issued a change directive to relocate a damper above a hard rock ceiling. Relocation was required to accommodate permanent power routing, not previously shown in the contract drawings by the design consultants. While trying to maneuver through a “small crevice” above the hard rock ceiling, the employee attempted to reach below him to a stud causing him to apply his full weight on his right arm which caused instant pain in his shoulder. Although able to continue working, reaching overhead and heavy lifting aggravated the pain.</p>	

What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee reported the injury right away. • Employee also reported a previous injury to the same shoulder with previous employer. • Employee received medical attention right away for this incident and an MRI was ordered. • MRI identified a rotator cuff tear that was consistent with a previous injury. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous injury was not repaired, instead employee was denied a claim by his previous employer. • Original design documents did not allow for routing of permanent power. • Removal of hard rock ceiling to facilitate relocation of the damper was not pursued. • Risks of working above the hard rock ceiling, were not eliminated.

Lessons Learned

Change directives are an inevitable part of our projects and can be the root cause of needless risk if not properly managed. When evaluating risks, the hierarchy of controls reminds us that our first and best course of action is **elimination**. Spend the time needed to determine safe access so you can do the job in a manner that avoids risks and will result in the best quality of workmanship.

*Remember if you have a worker comp claim denied, you should speak to the insurer who denied the claim and request a written denial letter, upon receipt of the letter you may choose to file an appeal if wrongly denied.