


Lessons Learned

Date: 6/20/2023	Region: National Facility Services
Project: Service – Gesa Credit Union	Incident Title: Fire Supression System Failure

Summary	Picture
<p>Employee was called to a customer location to change out an air conditioning compressor in a server room. To do so, refrigerant needed to be reclaimed. The employee connected his recover machine and began reclaiming material in a storage tank. After 5 min the employee went upstairs to get another recovery tank because he knew the tank he was using would not hold all the material. When the employee returned to the basement he noticed the fire alarm going off and saw that his hose had come unconnected from the bottle and recovery pump, thus spraying R410A refrigerant around the room. The dispersed vaporized oil triggered the fire alarm and set off the fire suppression system.</p> <p>Hearing a loud clammer when exiting the basement the technician found that the fire suppression system failed, shooting a 2" victolic T through a wall and what appeared to be a back pressure buildup as the entire piping system looked to have been moved or damaged. The storage tank was held in a separate room from where the work was being performed, and no injuries occurred.</p>	
What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee followed standard practice for reclaiming refrigerant. • Employee went to find a customer representative once he realized a fire alarm was triggered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee did not ask the customer to put his fire detection system in test mode. This generally happens before hot work, and there was no hot work at this time. • Employee is unsure of how the recovery pump and compressor came detached from one another.

Lessons Learned

- Technician recommended that being a familiar with the fire suppression system you are working around could prove to be valuable in the event you set off an alarm accidentally. There are kill switch or procedures that can be performed to prevent the release of fire suppression.
- Work was stopped and put on hold until the cause of the failed suppression system was determined. Due to the large damage that occurred, our insurance carrier was put on notice, however it was documented that had the suppression system released correctly, no damage would've occurred. Therefore, the damage was not at fault of Apollo.