


Lessons Learned

Date: 10/2/2023 Region: National Facility Services - Montana
 Project: MSU Bozeman Incident Title: Re-Work Leads to Back Strain

Summary	Picture
<p>A previously installed piece of PVC pipe was damaged by another contractor. Apollo tasked a first-year Apprentice with chipping out the concrete surrounding the broken material so the broken pipe could be repaired. As the worker was chipping with a large, corded roto hammer, they shifted their body position and felt a shooting pain in their lower back. The worker stopped work and contacted their supervisor who then contacted management and the Safety Department. The worker was seen at a clinic where he was diagnosed with a lower back strain and given prescriptions and modified work.</p> <p>The employee was a laborer by trade who had just recently joined the plumber/pipefitters union so he had plenty of experience using the tool and performing the concrete demolition process.</p>	
What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The worker reported the injury immediately to his supervisor. • Employee was comfortable and trained on the tools and process. • Employees were using the correct tool to complete the work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously installed work was damaged by another trade causing rework. • The concrete chipping task was not identified on the PTP. • The injured employee had never been trained in ergonomics and proper lifting and material handling.

Lessons Learned

- The incident revealed a calling tree and clearer direction for injury reporting and the claim process needed to be addressed with first-level supervisors. Apollo is attempting to establish relationships with local providers to help with the management of claims.
- Pre-task planning was vague and did not identify the exact hazards for the tasks on the day. No roto-hammering or heavy power tool use was indicated.
- The investigation process revealed that some employees were never given a proper Apollo Orientation. The employees are being identified and the training is being conducted over the next few weeks.