


Lessons Learned

Date: 10/14/2023 **Region:** National Facility Services – Spokane Service Dept.
Project: Medical Facility Service **Incident Title:** Brazing smoke causes concern

Summary	Picture
<p>Apollo service technicians were called to a medical facility to perform a compressor changeout on a Roof Top Unit (RTU). Apollo was working with the maintenance manager during the call. The unit was shut down and multiple doors were opened for access inside. During the changeout, brazing was done by a technician on the rooftop outside of the unit, however, because of the negative pressure of the building, brazing smoke was sucked into the building causing a fire alarm to trigger. The facility rep went inside the building and stopped the fire alarm system since he knew the source was from routine maintenance on the roof.</p> <p>At the time of service, no issues were reported, and Apollo was able to complete the work and finish the call. However, months later it became the focus of an L&I inspection due to a medical facility worker making a complaint. During the investigation, Apollo was identified and questioned on the work performed. More specifically the assessment of the rooftop as a confined space and the controls in place for brazing smoke exposure.</p>	
What Went Right?	What Went Wrong?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apollo was working with the facility rep for the duration of the job. • The unit was shut down, locked out, and multiple access doors were opened before entering the unit. • Brazing was completed outside of the unit. • The owner rep is the person who shut off the fire alarm and not Apollo. • Apollo employees were interviewed during the investigation and no citations were given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility did not warn their employees or customers that routine maintenance was being performed. • The fire suppression system was not put into test mode with hot work being performed. • No documentation of a confined space evaluation was completed. • A facility employee smelt smoke and became concerned that no fire suppression system or alarm was activated causing her to believe people were at risk.
Lessons Learned	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When performing routine maintenance that may trigger alarm systems, suggest to the facility rep that employees and customers be informed. Suggest signs for people to read or provide contact numbers to call. • When safe and applicable, suggest fire alarm system be put in test mode before hot work is started. • If performing smoke-generating tasks around a large RTU take precautionary measures to stop the smoke from entering the building taking into consideration wind direction, facility pressure, and unit fan movement. • The compliance investigation took place 5 months after the work was performed. This is why document retention is required and important. 	