

HAZARD BULLETIN



Pipefitter Safety

Employers are responsible to ensure the safety of workers. This includes contractors working at facilities, or in positions that they may not be familiar with.

There have been many injuries and deaths when working on pressurized piping systems and MIOSHA would like to remind companies with work activities involving this dangerous operation to take an extra moment to prioritize safety.



Request Assistance from the
Consultation Education and Training Division

MIOSHA Hazard Bulletin

Pipefitter Safety

Recent Fatalities

- On March 27, 2024, a 21-year-old apprentice pipefitter was working on a boiler system being installed for a school addition. The pipefitter was standing on a ladder when the cap on a pressurized boiler line came off and struck the pipefitter in the face.
- On September 15, 2023, a 41-year-old pipefitter was pressure testing a pipe when a valve came off the pipe and struck him in the head. The victim was hospitalized and succumbed to his injuries on September 16, 2023.

How to Stay Safe

- **Identify Pressure:** Always determine if the pipe or equipment you are working on is under pressure.
- **Never Remove End Caps Under Pressure:** End caps should never be removed while the system is under pressure.
- **Avoid Loosening Components:** Never loosen coupling hardware or any other system component to check if the system is pressurized or to depressurize the system.
- **Implement Good Policies and Procedures:** Ensure robust policies and procedures are in place for employees working with pressurized piping systems.
- **Employee Training:** Train employees on the hazards associated with installing, testing, and maintaining pressurized systems. Emphasize that a pressure gauge alone is not an acceptable method of verifying system pressure.
- **Seek Assistance:** Reach out for help in hazard recognition, best practices, and training

MIOSHA's [Consultation Education and Training \(CET\) Division](#) offers free statewide safety and health assistance to employers and employees. A staff of experienced professional occupational safety experts, construction safety consultants, and industrial hygienists can provide a wide range of customized services for management and staff.