

No job is more important.



Safety Alert

N°1 2002

Chrome Plated Fire Hydrant Valve Failure



Details

A service technician was injured while applying hand pressure to close a fire hydrant valve to prevent it leaking.

The injury occurred when the centre of the 64 mm chrome plated brass fire hydrant valve, weighing 2.8 kg, was forced from the valve body by the water pressure in the system.

Contributing Factors

An investigation into this accident revealed that:

- Washers in this and other fire hydrant valves were replaced two days earlier and were correctly re-assembled.
- The failed valve body appeared to be soft and distorted easily.
- The valve was approx 40 to 50 years old.
- The technician was standing in front of the valve to close it.

Recommendations

Where **chrome plated fire hydrant valves** are installed it is strongly recommended that building owners have them inspected by a 'competent person'. They should be replaced where faulty.

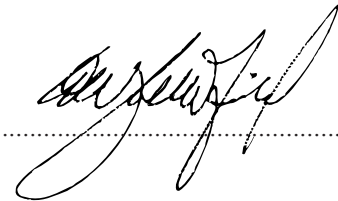
Persons should not stand in front of hydrant valves during servicing, adjustment or operation.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:
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1 August 2002