

# SAFETY ALERT

## First Aid - Snipe Snaps Valve Handle



### Incident Description

Worker was using snipe on valve handle in an attempt to stop “passing” valve. When applying force the valve handle broke resulting in the snipe striking worker on hard hat. The blow to the hard hat caused a slight neck muscle strain.

### Contributing Factors

- Using snipe to close valve.
- Valve may have been previously cracked (inspection pending).

### Prevention

- Use only properly sized valve wrench on valve handles.
- In situations where extra force is required due to a “stiff” valve, inspect the valve handle for damage prior to applying force.
- Use Stop and Think prior to performing task and if a snipe is required refer to the “Using Snipes” procedure.
- Repair or replace valves that require excessive force to open or close.

For more information contact Ken Perepelecta @ 780-639-5139