



The
UNIVERSITY
of **VERMONT**

Physical Plant Department
SAFETY SHORT • September 2017

WORKSAFE

Working Around Steam and Hot Water Pipes

Recently, Physical Plant Employees have experienced injuries related to working around exposed steam and hot water pipes. Momentary skin contact of pipes with temperatures at and above 140°F can cause burns with momentary contact. Although various OSHA standards exist to insulate or guard pipes or other exposed surfaces having an external surface temperature of 140°F or higher, during the course of maintenance activities PPD employees may be exposed to these type of hot surfaces.

Prior to working on or adjacent to exposed hot surfaces, PPD employees should review with their supervisors the need for the following:

- Does the work require that OSHA Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) procedures be utilized? If not required by OSHA, is it practical to utilize LOTO procedures to eliminate the hazard? Now is a good time to review the PPD LOTO Program that can be found at the following link:
<http://tco.w3.uvm.edu/safetyprograms/lockout-tagout-program/>
- If the hazard cannot be eliminated, can a heat resistant blanket (or other similar device) be utilized to protect the worker?
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be utilized to protect the worker from these (and other) types of hazards.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) should be developed by Supervisors that will address safety related concerns for all routine maintenance activities.

This Safety Short is to remind us all we have a role to play in keeping UVM safe!