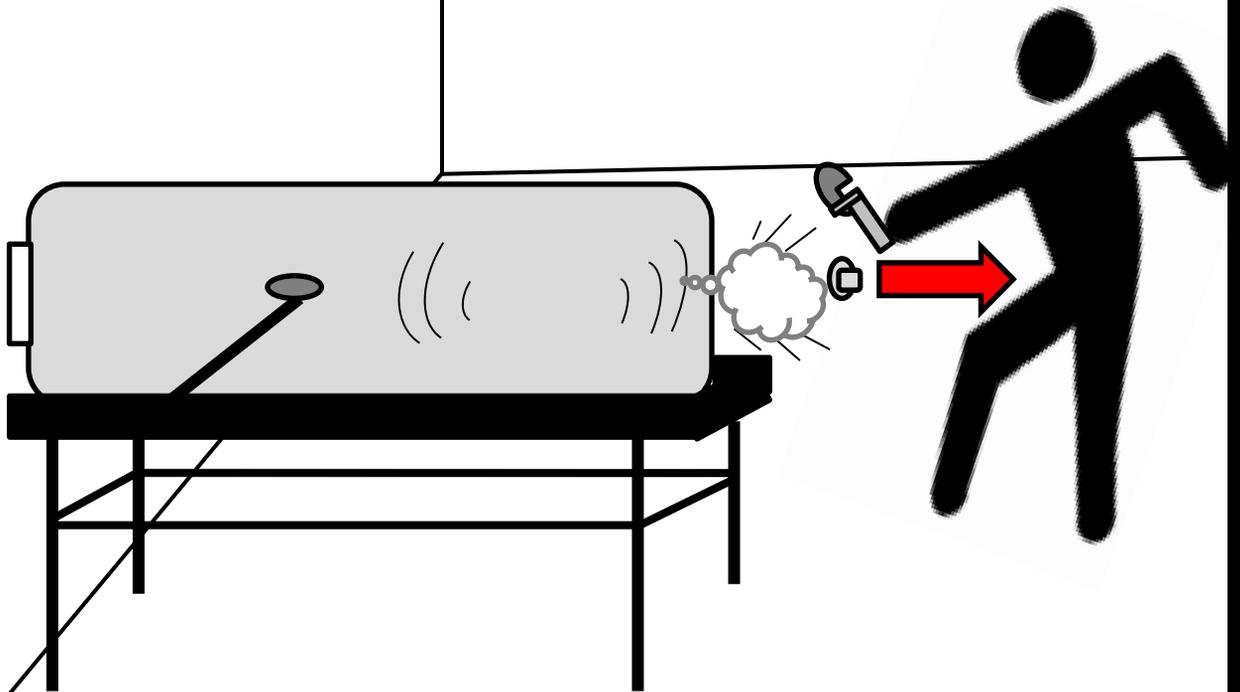


# FATAL HAZARD



- Follow manufacturer recommendations
- Release pressure before working on pressurized systems
- Install a “dump valve” to make sure that pressure is released when a system is powered off

## Millwright Fatality Involving a Hydraulic Accumulator

**INSTRUCTIONS: Hold the guide with this side facing you and the other side facing your crew. Then read the story.**

Our safety talk today is about a 61-year-old senior millwright who died while taking a hydraulic accumulator apart. The victim had 32 years of experience. Two other employees were injured in this incident. The victim was taking the hydraulic accumulator apart to rebuild it. The accumulator and instructions on the rebuild kit had warning labels to release the pressure on the accumulator. A step in the disassembly process was skipped and pressurized nitrogen gas remained in the accumulator. While the victim was slowly removing the cap from the end of the accumulator, the cap flew off the cylinder and hit the victim in the abdomen and pelvis. He died from severe blood loss.



Gas pressure release valve in incident, believed to be damaged when accumulator flew off the table. Shown removed next to a new valve.

**So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.**

- Make sure to follow manufacturer recommendations
- Make sure to release pressure before working on pressurized systems
- Install a “dump valve” to make sure that pressure is released when a system is powered off.
- Management or I need to tell all employees about the danger of stored energy and how to safely work with it.

**ASK: “Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?”**  
**Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.**

**END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).**

- “Are there any operations we do that might cause us to skip a step when disassembling equipment, such as releasing pressure or other stored energy?”
- “Does anyone have ideas for making sure that we follow manufacturer’s recommendations?”
- “What do you all do to make sure people know and follow steps in a process?”
- Discuss a similar situation at your facility.
- Express your commitment to training people about the danger of stored energy.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.