

Update – SEELER Exothermic Torch

2009-04

August 2009

PURPOSE

This Advisory is being issued to withdraw the suspension on the use of the Seeler Exothermic Torch (see Safety Advisory 2007-06).

BACKGROUND

On November 15, 2005, a student attending a course at the National Training Center (NTC) was injured while using the SEELER Exothermic Torch because of a leaking dead-man switch (torch valve). A similar failure with the torch valve (Figure 1) was also reported by a student taking a familiarization course on the SEELER torch at Oak Ridge (Y-12).

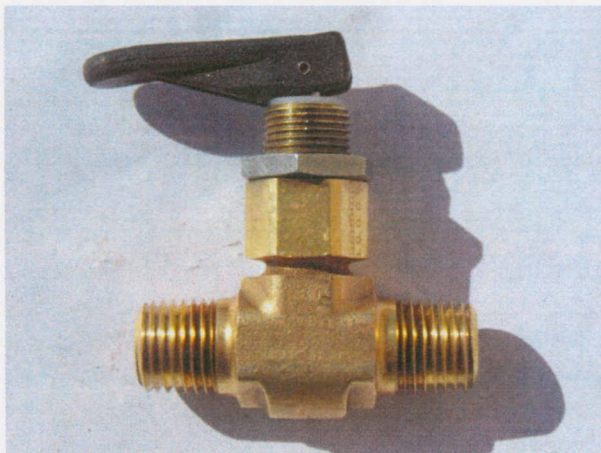


FIGURE 1 – SEELER TORCH VALVE

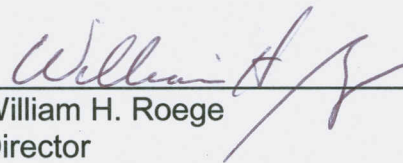
FOLLOWUP

The torch manufacturer, Seeler Enterprises, Inc., identified the problem, a faulty toggle valve, and instituted corrective actions.

ACTIONS

Sites are free to use the SEELER Exothermic Cutting Torch after verifying proper operation of the toggle valve.

Questions regarding this Safety Advisory can be directed to Dr. Bill McArthur, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Policy (HS11), at (301) 903-9674 or e-mail to bill.mcarthur@hq.doe.gov.



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