

SAFETY MATTERS

JUNE/JULY 2017

CO MONITORS PROVE VALUABLE

Proactive safety tool keeps workers safe indoors

Any time you're using gas- or diesel powered equipment inside a building, request a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor from RLI safety.

Brian Wingate, RLI superintendent at the ProMedica Steam Plant, says crews use two CO monitors on each floor, mounted on plywood and hung at eye level. Anyone working in the rafters is encouraged to use a personal monitor.

Recently, a boom lift in the atrium set off a CO monitor. The crew immediately removed the lift from the building and used fans to vent the area.

The experience and knowledge of RLG associates are the keys to safety, but CO monitors can help alert workers to be proactive. CO monitors "are good

supplemental tools to help warn people of hazards, but workers still need to rely on their senses and training to identify a potential problem," Wingate says.

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Brian Wingate
RLI superintendent

At Defiance City Schools, a dozen CO monitors were placed throughout the building, and some workers wore monitors clipped to their clothing. Monitors also alert workers of CO levels before they become unsafe.

"If monitors go off and CO levels aren't unsafe yet, we have the opportunity to reduce CO levels by opening doors, windows, adding fans and shutting off CO-producing equipment," says **Bryan Risner**, RLI project manager at Defiance City Schools.

When CO monitors went off during a gymnasium concrete pour this past winter, crews were evacuated and the site was ventilated.

"During the pour, we noticed that CO monitors spiked near one of the four concrete buggies. That buggy was removed from service," Risner says. "We met the next morning to discuss what happened and how we needed to change the original plan. Future winter pours were a success without any major CO issues."

'YOU CAN'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE'

Proactive approach to safety leads GEM pipefitter to identify hazard

RLG Northeast Ohio office – Steve Berger, a GEM pipefitter, had a feeling he should inspect an entire high-pressure steam line before putting it back in service.

His effort prevented a potentially catastrophic event for his customer.

Checking the entire line involved extra effort. Berger and **Jim Hutte**, GEM pipefitter apprentice, needed to enter a PPE-regulated building outside their work area.

After completing repairs on the 90 psi 300-degree Fahrenheit steam line, Berger and Hutte put on the required respirators and began inspecting the entire line downstream from their lockout location.

What they found was serious. Four 1½-inch gate valves, installed by another contractor, were found to be open and exposed to the atmosphere. There was no control or lockout by the other contractor on the new valves or upstream main isolation point, where Steve had been working.

Berger immediately called Phil Wright, GEM foreman, to verify his findings and alert the owner.

"Steve is very conscientious," Wright says. "He went above and beyond. He was working in a non-regulated area and went to a regulated area to trace out the line."

Berger says, "Something kept gnawing at me, and I thought I'm going to walk this



Steve Berger (left) accepts a gift card from **Phil Wright**, recognizing Berger's contribution to safety.

down. I'm just glad nobody got hurt. We had a lot of people working in that area, and we were ready to open up the valve. You can't leave anything to chance."

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2016 FIND IT-FIX IT WINNERS

Personal commitment makes our jobsites safer

Congratulations to the 2016 Find It-Fix It winners! Last year's best finds were awarded additional days off with pay.

Brad Wilson

First place: 3 days off with pay

While he was refueling a Gradall, Brad Wilson noticed that the spout was arcing and creating a spark when the spout was in contact with the Gradall.

He locked out the fuel tank and notified the superintendent.

Bryan Risner

Second place: 2 days off with pay

A mason had stored several heavy items

in the same bay of steel on the second floor.

There was a 2,500-pound limit per bay of steel.

Bryan Risner told the mason foreman to spread the material out and the material was moved to separate bays.

Steve Masserant

Third place: 1 day off with pay

While removing interior brick walls, Steve Masserant discovered that part of the wall contained a load-bearing beam for a second-floor shower.

He stopped work and notified the owner.



Clockwise from bottom left: **Brad Wilson** and **Brian Risner** are congratulated by **Mark Hoffman**, RLI health and safety manager

FIND IT-FIX ITS

RLI associates on track to set new record in 2017

We're making jobsites safer by reporting and eliminating more hazards through Find It-Fix It.

Our 2016 participation set a new record with 1,811 finds. So far this year, we have already topped 1,300 finds and are on

track to set a new record in 2017.

Jobsites with most 'finds'

Congratulations to associates at these projects for best jobsite participation in Find it-Fix it:

- **Maxx Fitness**, The Shops at Fallen

- **Timbers, Maumee** (December)
- **Defiance Schools** (January)
- **RLI Yard** (February)
- **Mercy St. Anne's Medical Center** (March)
- **Mercy St. Vincent ER expansion** (April)

2016 SAFETY AUDIT SUMMARY

Over 97 percent safety compliance on our jobsites!

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Hard hat	16,599	51
Eye protection	16,607	217
Pretask planner	2,249	13
6-foot fall protection	1,766	71
Ladder use	1,241	63
Scaffolds/aerial lifts	1,939	97
Excavation/shoring	743	12
Housekeeping/ work environment	2,041	216
Lock-out/tag-out	581	16
Electrical cords (GFC)	2,882	191

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Fire protection	3,469	113
Respirator protection	309	11
Barricades/site protection	3,331	122
Flammable liquids gas cylinders	934	28
Tools/equipment	2,838	40
Welding/cutting/burning	452	11
Confined space	83	5
Other	2,006	288
Total observations	60,070	1,565
% Observations in compliance	97.46 percent	