

SAFETY MATTERS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

PLANNING FOR SAFETY

Two unique DTE projects completed with zero injuries

DTE – Not many projects involve demolishing a building around active gas piping, or demolishing and replacing a wooden bridge over a canal.

Both DTE projects presented unique safety challenges, but RLI associates in Michigan completed them with zero injuries.

Demolishing a building around an active gas line

In September, RLI demolished a brick building with metal frame roofing and precast panels.

What set this job apart? The gas regulator piping which had to stay active during the two and half week project.



The scaffolding deck constructed above the gas pipe kept the property safe during demolition.

Careful pre-task planning protected the team and the natural gas piping. The crew built a scaffolding deck above the gas pipe to keep the property safe. Then, they did much of the demo by hand, taking the small, 700-square-foot building down to grade.

“We weren’t able to just go in and start

working,” says **Jay Gillette, account manager** in RLG’s Plymouth office. “In a typical demo project, we could knock the building down in a day with an excavator, but because there was active pipe in there, we had to remove small portions of the building at a time. Our foremen did most of the planning.”

In the end, the crew, led by **RLI Superintendent Terry Laurain**, worked incident-free and service continued without interruption to the neighborhood’s residential and commercial customers.

The pipe was removed and replaced, and RLI is constructing the new building over the gas line with a March completion date.

Working over water

DTE’s old wooden bridge over a canal off the Detroit River had deteriorated too much to accommodate vehicles.

The wood bridge, 100 feet long and 16 feet wide, had a wooden deck with steel frame supports. The RLI crew worked over open water to replace the deck.

“As you removed the deck, there was nothing there other than the steel framing that remained,” says Gillette.

The safety plan, developed by **RLI Superintendent Don McClellan**, had the crew work backward to remove the bridge, then rebuild it working forward.

Careful planning ensured that the crew had a stable work platform each step of the way.

“Our biggest safety concern was ensuring that everyone on site had a safe



The DTE bridge under construction (above) and after completion (below).



walking surface because the wood had deteriorated. But you were still always near the edge, so everyone stayed aware of their surroundings.”

Everyone working on the bridge wore personal flotation devices.

Rescue boats were kept on standby with a designated safety watch to man the boats and throw life rings and hooks to immediately rescue any worker from the water. A floating platform was maintained underneath the work area to catch debris.

“There was a lot of pre-task planning, and we had safety professionals walk the job with us,” Gillette says.

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2017 BEST FINDS AND A MILESTONE

RLI associates set a new record with 4,000+ submissions

RLI associates set a new Find It-Fix It record with 4,108 submissions in 2017 - more than double the 1,811 submissions received in 2016.

2017 Best Finds

Scott Ansell

First place: 3 days off with pay

Scott Ansell noticed an operator attempting to make a lift by powerlines. He stopped the operator and he relocated to a safe area to make the lift.

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Bryan Risner

Second place: 2 days off with pay

Brian Risner noticed that a subcontractor

employee had driven a forklift up a board supported by a block to let him work under the lift. The worker was lying down with his arms under the lift as he worked on a hose. Risner had the worker move the forklift off the wooden ramp. The subcontractor removed their worker from the jobsite.

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Jeff Rockwell, Laibe Electric

Third place: 1 day off with pay

Jeff Rockwell saw an open manhole with the cover on the ground. No workers were in the area and a delivery driver nearly walked into the open manhole. Rockwell stopped working and replaced the manhole cover.



Clockwise from left: Bryan Risner, Scott Ansell and Mark Hoffman, RLI health and safety manager

A FIND IT-FIX IT CHALLENGE

How many Finds have you reported so far this year?

Can your coworkers count on you to report 16 Find It-Fix Its this year? To reach our goal, every associate should have reported at least two so far this year.

It's doable. Nearly 50 of our coworkers and subcontractor employees are already doing it.

In 2017, 49 associates turned in 16 or more Find It-Fix Its.

This commitment to safety resulted in:

- 4,108 Find It-Fix Its last year - over twice what we submitted in 2016.
- We kept seven people from getting hurt and needing offsite medical.
- We kept three people from getting

hurt badly enough to be a recordable.

- Our recordable rate decreased to 0.7 - that's best-in-class.
- With nearly 4 million work hours and nearly five years worked without a lost-time incident, we're approaching a new milestone.
- And most important, we're getting better at working safely.

2017 SAFETY AUDIT SUMMARY

Over 96 percent safety compliance on our jobsites!

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Hard hat	16,497	83
Eye protection	14,672	379
Pretask planner	2,250	20
6-foot fall protection	2,127	78
Ladder use	1,771	38
Scaffolds/aerial lifts	2,361	108
Excavation/shoring	742	25
Housekeeping/ work environment	2,244	206
Lock-out/tag-out	1,039	9
Electrical cords (GFC)	3,232	221

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Barricades/site protection	3,844	158
Respiratory protection	305	11
Fire protection	3,268	120
Flammable liquids gas cylinders	915	18
Tools/equipment	2,728	36
Welding/cutting/burning	498	25
Confined space	91	10
Other	1,776	350
Total observations	60,360	1,895
% Observations in compliance	96.96 percent	