

# SAFETY MATTERS

MARCH/APRIL 2019

## ‘IT’S REALLY IMPRESSIVE’

Our insurance carrier and broker praise RLG safety at the First Solar site

**First Solar, Lake Twp.** – Our insurance carrier, Zurich North America, and our insurance broker, Oswald Companies, had strong praise for RLG safety - with First Solar as an excellent example of our commitment.

**Timothy E. Walsh**, a senior vice president with Oswald Companies, RLG’s insurance broker, praises the First Solar team:

“Zurich, the insurance company, said it’s one of the cleanest jobsites they’ve ever seen, and I’ve seen that firsthand.

“What always amazes me is the pace at which they are constructing that project, and to do it so quickly and at the same time, to be so safe is really quite an accomplishment.

“The safety culture really runs through all

of the RLG craft workers. They are doing a thing where if you see it, you fix it.

“The First Solar site “had over 300 [Find It-Fix It submissions] in January. That shows safety is more than a tagline. It really is embraced by the RLG workers and the subcontract trades. It’s really impressive,” Walsh says.



Zurich North America and Oswald Companies treated RLI, GEM and the other contractors to a BBQ at the First Solar jobsite in February.

The lunch expressed “our appreciation and recognition for a successful and safe job to date,” says **Connor Ward**, account executive, Zurich North America.



## FIND IT-FIX IT

Investigate, anticipate and be proactive as you identify hazards

**Unsafe condition:** An associate working in the belt lines investigated a strange sound and found a large rip in a belt.

**Solution:** He notified the control board. Production was shut down and the belt was fixed.

**Unsafe behavior:** A truck driver was talking on a cell phone while driving.

**Solution:** An associate stopped him and asked him not to talk or text while driving on site.

**Unsafe condition:** A worker went to lunch, leaving a drill unattended on top of a ladder.

**Solution:** A subcontractor removed the drill and set it by the base of the ladder.

**Unsafe behavior:** An associate was unloading a delivery through an access window and showed no signs that he was going to tie off.

**Solution:** Another associate stopped him and reminded him to tie off.

**Unsafe condition:** While walking inside on a footer, an associate noticed wire mesh sticking out of the concrete.

**Solution:** The associate grabbed a face shield, ear plugs and a Metabo to cut the pieces sticking out.

**Unsafe condition:** An associate found a cracked fiberglass extension ladder.

**Solution:** He removed the ladder from service, red tagged and repaired it.

## A NEW SAFETY RECORD

5 million hours with zero lost-time

RLI set a new safety record in March - 5 million hours worked without a lost-time incident.

In late April, we'll reach another milestone: six years without a lost-time incident.

Safety milestones help us measure progress on our safety journey, but it's what we achieve every day that matters the most - going home just the way we arrived.

Congratulations, keep up the good work and stay focused on safety!

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## REPORT EVERY NEAR-MISS AND GOOD CATCH

Every task is an opportunity to help us all get better at safety

Reporting good catches and near misses can prevent incidents, injuries and even save lives.

### An example from a construction industry blog post:

A worker using a GFCI-protected extension cord pushed the reset button several times to make the cord work, then finished his task and returned the cord to the tool room.

A few days later, another employee used the same cord and noticed the breaker was warm. He also had to reset the cord, but after he finished the task, he returned the cord to the tool room.

When a third employee plugged in the cord a few days later, it shocked him and caused a flash burn that killed him. There had been two opportunities to prevent the tragedy.

Near misses and good catches are warning signs that equipment, a policy or a procedure are creating a safety hazard.

### Why we need to report every near miss and good catch:

- We can properly investigate how and why each incident occurred.
- We'll learn from each good catch and near miss, and become better at eliminating the hazards that led to them.

- We can identify trends and make improvements in our safety procedures.

### Working with someone new? Or taking on a new task together?

Here are a few tips for working safely as a team:

- Plan the task in detail before you start. Consider everything that could go wrong and how you'll perform the task safely. Make sure each of you knows what the other is doing and when.
- Use verbal and non-verbal signals.
- If you're experienced, be a mentor for less experienced crew members.

## WHY DON'T PEOPLE REPORT NEAR-MISSES?

Encourage your coworkers to take this essential step in safety excellence

Reporting near-misses is just as important as reporting incidents.

In fact, reporting a near-miss can prevent incidents and it's an essential aspect of a strong safety culture.

So, why don't people report near-misses?

- They don't want to be blamed for problems or mistakes.
- They don't want to create more work.
- They don't want to be perceived as careless or as a troublemaker.

Here's why it's so important that every near-miss is reported:

- You're showing your safety commitment and helping to protect everyone on site.
- You're making us better at safety, as

- individuals and as a company.
- You're helping to keep these near-misses from happening again and leading to incidents.

If you're leading a team, encourage them to report near-misses - and recognize them for it. If you're part of a team, report all your near-misses and support your coworkers for doing the same.

## 2018 SAFETY AUDIT SUMMARY

Over 97 percent safety compliance on our jobsites

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Hard hat	14,642	117
Eye protection	14,413	302
Pretask planner	2,076	10
6-foot fall protection	1,947	54
Ladder use	1,423	56
Scaffolds/aerial lifts	1,897	56
Excavation/shoring	892	18
Housekeeping/work environment	2,173	234
Lock-out/tag-out	691	3
Electrical cords (GFC)	2,734	175

Observations	In Compliance	Correction Required
Barricades/site protection	3,905	152
Respiratory protection	349	9
Fire protection	2,896	172
Flammable liquids gas cylinders	1,026	20
Tools/equipment	2,996	37
Welding/cutting/burning	418	18
Confined space	52	2
Other	2,393	296
<b>Total observations</b>	<b>56,923</b>	<b>1,731</b>
<b>% Observations in compliance</b>	<b>97.05 percent</b>	