

SAFETY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

PRAISE FROM BLUESCOPE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RLG team completes steel work on the melt shop safely

Patrick J. Finan, chief executive, hot rolled products, North America, BlueScope, praises the RLG team working on the melt shop:

"I want to extend my appreciation on this momentous day of placing the last roof truss on the melt shop. The challenges were enormous with the COVID pandemic and the coordination with the plant operations.

"The RLG team worked safely through it all and followed very good hygiene practices. I was really impressed with the GEM ironworkers and how professionally they executed the steel erection.

"Over the last 10 months, I have had the opportunity to chat with a number of the RLG tradesmen during safety conversations and always enjoyed the engagement.

"Under a normal pre-COVID world, I would shake the hands of the RLG team members, and thank them personally.

"Today, please pass along my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the contribution and dedication of each team member. I look forward to celebrating future milestones as we safely complete this project."

RLG ANNUAL STAND-DOWN

Fall protection, suicide prevention and substance abuse

This year's stand-down covered fall protection and two additional topics relevant to the construction industry - substance abuse and suicide prevention - as we continue to deal with COVID-19.

Each of us has the responsibility to:

- Make the right choice every time.
- Speak up about safety concerns with no fear of retaliation.
- Identify, report and immediately address all hazards.
- Take care of ourselves and others.

Prevent falls

Falls are still the leading cause of construction fatalities, with about 45 percent happening at heights of 15 feet or less.

To eliminate fall hazards:

- Consider equipment that won't expose you to a fall, such as platform ladders or lifts.
- Assemble materials on the ground and hoist them into place.
- If those options aren't feasible, use a properly anchored Personal Fall Arrest System.

Suicide and substance abuse issues

The construction industry has the second-highest rate of suicide. If someone shows signs of suicidal behavior or substance abuse, including changes in behavior or appearance:

- Show you care. Ask why they don't seem like themselves, and listen.
- Get support from your supervisor or a company safety professional.
- Under RLG's substance abuse programs, if an associate comes forward with a substance abuse problem, our first concern is providing the help needed to begin recovery. (It is not automatic removal from the workforce.)

About opioid addiction:

- The opioid crisis isn't only illegal drug use. In many cases, people stay on prescribed medications too long or take too much.
- Some people self-medicate with opioids to "push through the pain" so they can keep working.
- Opioids should be the last option to treat pain. Discuss all options with your doctor, including other medications or physical therapy.



Associates at one of our stand-downs.

24/7/365 confidential resources

Suicide prevention

- Crisis Text Line - text "HELLO" to 741741
- Suicide Prevention Hotline, 1-800-273-8255

Substance abuse

- Contact your union or RLG Human Resources to reach the Employee Assistance Program.
- Contact your county health department.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse hotline, 1-800-662-4357.



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FIND IT-FIX IT

Associates work together to eliminate hazards and find solutions

Find It-Fix It gets people talking about safety and finding solutions - one of our program's greatest strengths.

GEM and RLI associates submitted these recent Find It-Fix Its:

Unsafe behavior: A few apprentices were not filling out their FIFI and STAC cards correctly. They did not use the correct emergency number or the address.

Solution: I talked to them about how important those things can be in an emergency.

Unsafe condition: While working from a ladder, I noticed the ground was un-level.

Solution: I stopped and had someone hold the ladder.

Unsafe behavior: A crane operator was not wearing his face mask.

Solution: I told him to put his mask on.

Unsafe condition: A Gradall was backing up in a high foot traffic area and the operator could not see very well.

Solution: I made eye contact and signed him to maneuver safely.

Unsafe behavior: An associate was using a Metabo with one hand and holding the material being cut with the other hand.

Solution: I held the piece being cut for the associate so he could have both hands on the Metabo.

Unsafe condition: A large iron connecting nuts and washers was left sitting on top of a beam.

Solution: I brought them to the ground with a manlift.

Unsafe behavior: An associate went to

unthread a flange while the steam was on.

Solution: I stopped him and turned the steam off.

Unsafe condition: The roof was leaking close to a 480-volt electrical panel.

Solution: I got a bucket to catch the water and informed the site contact.

Unsafe behavior: An inspector almost entered a confined space without a harness.

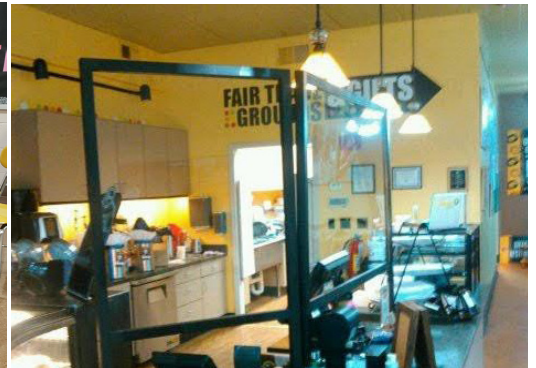
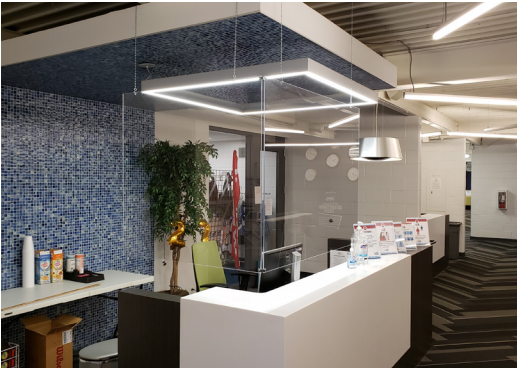
Solution: I got him a harness.

Unsafe condition: A John Deere buggy had no factory-installed horn.

Solution: I put a horn on it.

Unsafe behavior: An associate was grinding/performing hot work without a fire watch or blanket.

Solution: I stopped him and informed him of his actions.



GEM's FM 360 team has installed Plexiglass for customers including (L-R) Twos Athletic Club, the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo and Georgette's Grounds and Gifts.

FM 360

GEM's Facility Management team helps customers stay in or get back to business during COVID-19

GEM's FM 360 team has designed, fabricated and installed plexiglass partitions for over 20 facilities, helping customers return to or stay in business through COVID-19.

Each partition is custom-made, says **Matt Horvat**, FM field supervisor.

"We design each one to meet our customer's safety needs, design objectives and their budgets. Our partitions are better-looking than just a sheet of plexiglass."

The team has partitions ready for installation within a couple days after a customer's request.

**"We design each one to meet our customer's safety needs, design objectives and their budgets."
- Matt Horvat, FM field supervisor**

"They love it," Horvat says. "It really helps keep them in business and meet the changing climate."

Another important FM 360 service: Maintaining buildings during the height of the COVID-19 shutdown.

"During the peak shutdown, we were checking on our customers' buildings to ensure safety," Horvat says.

"We were doing inspections to make sure water tanks hadn't ruptured and the heat was on," he adds. "Buildings are not made to sit empty without attention. We made sure we kept them maintained and live while they were empty."