

SAFETY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

LUCAS COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Working incident-free in an operating building

Lucas County Community-Based Correctional Facility – RLG built a 27,000-square-foot addition to an occupied and operating correctional facility, with no incidents for RLI or GEM.

RLI was general contractor and self-performed site work, all concrete and general trades for the pre-engineered metal building. **GEM** installed the metal building and performed siding, roofing, plumbing and HVAC.

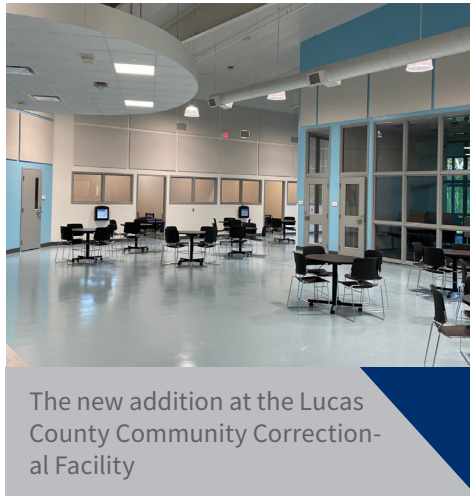
Unique safety aspects:

- GEM and RLI associates completed site orientation with correctional facility staff on inmate and trade associate safety.
- The team tied in HVAC automated controls, data, fire alarm and electrical into operational utilities in an operating facility.
- In an operating kitchen, dining room and administrative wing, the team constructed a fire-rated wall and ceiling for fire separation between the facility and new addition.

- The team's experience with hospitals and Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) standards helped them minimize impact on the facility's operations.
- Coordination with staff during COVID outbreaks inside the facility minimized exposure for our trades.
- Coordinating closely with staff, the team constructed a new guard station area with casework in the

occupied building.

- At the end of each shift, any mobile equipment not within a security fence was deactivated using either a wheel lock or battery disconnection and keys were locked in the job trailer.
- No ladders could be left out unless stored and chained to a storage box or heavy equipment.
- On certain days, due to incidents in the facility, the team was not allowed access and had to change their plans.



The new addition at the Lucas County Community Correctional Facility

"The RLG team worked as one cohesive unit to complete the project safely, on time and on budget," says **Jacob Butler**, GEM project manager. "We looked out for each other and coordinated daily to ensure that everyone was safe. The success of this project is owed to our excellent tradesmen who work for RLG."

"Everyone did what they were supposed to do - pretask planning, continuous communication between all contractor foremen, regular look-ahead meetings and an emphasis on quality. That's why we had a safe and successful project," says **David Crozier**, RLI project manager.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

With training, we are prepared for any situation

At RLG, we keep our jobsites and offices incident-free with safety training, PPE, project and pretask planning, safety audits and Find It-Fix It.

But in the event of an incident, our crisis management plan gives us a framework for responding swiftly and effectively.

Crisis management training makes sure our teams know what to do in every situation. Three training refreshers were held in September and October.

"The training was great," says **Mike Keane**, RLI director of field operations. "**Mark Hoffman** [RLI health and safety director] laid out a scenario that kept getting more complicated. We all saw the importance of everyone's role."

"In four hours, everyone had to think critically while information was thrown at us," says **Corey Bettenbrock**, RLI project manager. "Hopefully, we never have to use this training, but it will help to make sure we manage any possible crisis."



Crisis management training at RLI on October 6.



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OVERHEAD WORK

Eliminate hazards for the people below

- Warn the people below when you're about to begin overhead work.
- Don't carry tools or materials up a ladder - instead, lift them by rope in containers or buckets.
- Make sure tools and materials are securely fastened in containers or buckets and can't fall out when lifting.
- Never throw tools or materials.
- When you pile materials on scaffolds, make sure scaffolding and platforms have toe boards so objects can't fall.
- Keep tools and materials off railings and window sills, and away from the edges of platforms and ladders.
- Don't stick tools in your pockets because they may fall out.
- Pick up and properly store tools and materials that are not in use.
- Don't leave material propped against a wall and unattended.
- If you're working on the ground, be aware of overhead work and obey signs and barricades.

FIND IT-FIX IT

Report your 'finds' and 'fixes' to keep safety top-of-mind

Unsafe condition: A Gradall was backing up with no backup alarm in a tight area.

Solution: An associate notified the operator to fix the backup alarm.

Unsafe behavior: A concrete truck driver was getting closer to the hole and the bank started to cave in.

Solution: An associate stopped the driver immediately, told him to back up and put a barricade in place.

Unsafe condition: Several strips for powder-actuated tools with unused rounds were discarded on the floor.

Solution: An associate put them in a bucket of water and notified the foreman.

Unsafe behavior: A carpenter was attempting to saw a 2x4 without using saw horses or anything to secure the lumber.

Solution: An associate stopped him and reminded him to take the right approach when using the circular saw.

Unsafe condition: Flooring was uneven due to a structural steel connection being removed.

Solution: An associate barricaded the area and notified everyone to stay away from the area.

Unsafe behavior: A subcontractor was cutting material with a grinder and did not have a faceshield on.

Solution: An associate stopped him and had him get a faceshield, then told him to always have one on when he cuts with a grinder.

Unsafe condition: A Bobcat operator was driving unaware that his rear compartment was open and swinging.

Solution: An associate stopped him and told him to fix it.

Unsafe behavior: Two workers were welding outside next to propane tanks without extinguishers.

Solution: An associate stopped them and got extinguishers and fire blankets.

Unsafe condition: An associate discovered energized 480v parallel feeds for panel without covers installed.

Solution: The associate got the foreman and told him to install covers.

Unsafe behavior: A worker was driving a forklift with the forks raised to 3 feet.

Solution: An associate stopped him and told him what could happen if he continued to drive that way.

Unsafe behavior: A building maintenance worker was standing at the top of a 6-foot ladder to work on electrical lines instead of using the 8-foot ladder in the area.

Solution: An associate told the worker to use the 8-foot ladder instead.

Unsafe behavior: A subcontractor was using a partner saw without safety glasses, faceshield, gloves, fire extinguisher or hot work permit.

Solution: An associate stopped the worker and helped him correct all issues.

THANK YOU FOR WORKING SAFELY!

GEM teams at First Solar



GEM associates installed PVC conduit duct bank into a trench.

Above, L-R: **Matt Werner, Aaron Clark and Kraig Queenan.**

Below, L-R: **Austin Waggoner, Matt Taylor and Trey Schnabel.**

