

SAFETY MATTERS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

OTTAWA HILLS JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Good organization, strong communication make project a '10'

Keeping construction work separated from students, staff and faculty is RLI's most important task as construction manager for the Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School building upgrades.

The area that previously served as a courtyard is being roofed and enclosed to create a common area for study and meetings. The project also includes 10 classroom renovations and whole building system upgrades.

Phase 1 has been completed, and Phase 2 starts in January and ends in August.

"We're sequencing work areas so we can limit the construction activities performed during school hours to defined work zones," says **Bryan Cox**, RLI project manager. "This strategy has worked well for the project."

Temporary barrier walls and designated

entry/exit doors for construction workers keep the construction areas separated from students, faculty and staff.

Critical overhead work is sequenced when the school is not occupied, such as structural steel erection performed by crane during the students' summer vacation. Two portable classroom trailers are used during classroom renovations.

Key laydown areas are fenced in and secured. Construction deliveries are scheduled when students are not being picked up and dropped off.

The project has had zero recordables and no lost-time incidents. School officials gave RLI a perfect 10 in the midpoint customer satisfaction survey which included safety.

"The school's been great and very involved," Cox says. "Communication is



The repurposed courtyard

important to the school. We inform them of what work is coming up week to week, and they let us know when events will be happening so we can both be prepared. It's going really smoothly."

LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

RLG's Mental Health First Aiders offer immediate support in a crisis

Every year, more than 20 million Americans experience a mental health challenge.

Asking for help can be hard. We need to support each other through the tough times and get the help we need to stay healthy.

To help provide that support, nine **RLG** associates are now Mental Health First Aiders (MHFAs), certified by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

MHFAs are trained to offer immediate support in a crisis, until professional help arrives or the crisis resolves.

Mental Health First Aiders do not diagnose or treat anyone, but they do:

- Observe changes in behaviors.
- Offer a nonjudgmental listening ear.
- Respect the privacy and honor the feelings and concerns of the person needing support.
- Serve as a link to early intervention.

If you need support, feel free to reach out to any one of our MHFAs:

Stephanie Andrews **Margaret Hutton**
Dave Bradfield **Kendallyn Jacobs**
Andrea Csontos **Gail Ritchie**
Amber Hass **Teri Ross**
Heather Hagans

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Stay safe and healthy this holiday season. Get support if you need it, and use these 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 health and welfare office or RLG Human Resources to reach Employee Assistance Programs.**
- **Contact your county health department.**
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse hotline, 1-800-662-4357.**



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THANK YOU FOR WORKING SAFELY!

GEM teams at First Solar Phase II in Lake Township; RLI teams at DTE Service Center in Warren



FIND IT-FIX IT

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

Unsafe condition: A temporary stair platform was set up for access to the building with no handrail or caution tape.

Solution: An associate fastened wood across the opening until proper rail was installed.

Unsafe behavior: An associate didn't have his face shield down while grinding.

Solution: Another associate stopped work and reminded him to put his face shield down.

Unsafe condition: A gas can was sitting next to a running generator.

Solution: An associate moved the gas can to a safe location.

Unsafe behavior: An associate was trying to move a heavy pallet of material alone.

Solution: A coworker stopped him and got other workers to help.

Unsafe condition: Ironworkers were using a generator and the exhaust was pointing at the partially open dock doors, filling the area where others were working with carbon monoxide.

Solution: An associate told them the generator needed to be moved.

Unsafe behavior: An apprentice was standing between a steel column on the ground and a steel column to be unloaded in the operator's blind spot.

Solution: An associate stopped work and explained the proper place to stand and signal.

Unsafe condition: An associate received a suspicious email with an attachment from a customer contact.

Solution: The associate called the customer and confirmed that his contact had been hacked. Then the associate informed RLG Information Services.

Unsafe behavior: An electrician was using a step ladder as a straight ladder against a wall to access the top of a panel.

Solution: An associate asked the electrician to open the ladder or use a Baker scaffold to access the top of the panel safely.

Unsafe condition: A large compressor hose was connected but not wired together.

Solution: An associate stopped the workers and had them connect the fittings with wire.

Unsafe behavior: A worker in a manlift was not tied off at the correct location.

Solution: An associate explained to him where the correct tie off point was.

Unsafe behavior: A worker was cutting rebar with a partner saw and there was no fire extinguisher nearby.

Solution: An associate brought a fire extinguisher to the worker.

Unsafe condition: A generator was being set up indoors with no fire extinguisher.

Solution: An associate talked to the crew and had them get a fire extinguisher to be part of the job setup. They also reviewed the pretask plan to ensure they understood why the fire extinguisher was needed.

NO EXCUSES, NO DISTRACTIONS

Stay focused on safety this holiday season.

It's easy to get distracted during the holidays - especially this year.

- Stay 100 percent focused on safety when you're at work.
- If you find yourself thinking of anything other than performing your task safely, stop what you're doing for a few seconds and refocus on safety.
- Take the opportunity to look around and make sure your surroundings are safe.
- Watch over your coworkers - make sure they are working safely too.
- Use Find It-Fix It every day. The number-one cause of many safety incidents is the failure to identify and eliminate hazards early - before they have a chance to become incidents.

This is true for every kind of incident, from pinch-points to falls to weather-related injuries/illnesses.

Working safely has never been more important. Do it for your family, your friends, your coworkers and yourself.