

SAFETY MATTERS

MARCH/APRIL 2022

THE 2021 FIND IT-FIX IT WINNERS

GEM, RLI workers excelled at solving safety issues



Tim Hartman



David Crozier



Derek Julian



Michael Jarrell



Jason Badenhop



Bobby McGee

Thank you, everyone who made our jobsites safer last year by submitting Find It-Fix Its. Please keep reporting finds in 2022!

GEM 1st Place
\$1,000 Visa Gift Card

Tim Hartman, Ironworker
Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Units

While working on a platform 408 feet in the air, Hartman noticed that his nylon retractable was rubbing against sheet metal which was cutting it. He asked someone to give him a cable retractable instead of nylon.

RLI 1st Place
3 Days PTO

David Crozier, Project Manager
First Solar

A plumbing excavation underneath a grade beam left about 8 feet of grade beam suspended in the air with no shoring support. The grade beam already had precast panels installed on it, and structural steel and roof decking connected to the precast. Crozier reported this to the RLI superintendents and GEM project manager, and recommended that nearby work be stopped immediately.

Crozier had his project engineer contact a third-party engineer for a shoring design, which was received and installed the next day.

GEM 2nd Place
\$750 Visa Gift Card
Derek Julian, Pipefitter
North Star/BlueScope

An operator was moving a bucket to attach it on ground level while a worker was in the hole below, putting him in danger of being crushed as the bucket was tipping off the edge. Julian stopped both workers and secured the bucket.

RLI 2nd Place
2 Days PTO
Michael Jarrell, Project Manager
Washington Local Schools -- Silver Creek Elementary

Ironworkers were placing chairs on metal decking for a small mezzanine floor area that had uncovered floor openings and an open wall section without cable railing. They were not tied off and had no harnesses or retractables. Jarrell told them to stop work and get off the metal decking. He asked a carpenter to install floor coverings and had an ironworker

weld posts and run cabling at wall opening sections.

GEM 3rd Place
\$500 Visa Gift Card
Jason Badenhop, Electrician
North Star BlueScope

When Badenhop saw a worker standing on the top rail of a man lift without a harness, he told the worker to get a harness.

RLI 3rd Place
1 Day PTO
Bobby McGee, Superintendent
Hollywood Casino

A concrete truck driver was getting closer to a hole and the bank started to cave in. McGee stopped him immediately, told him to back up and put a barricade in place.

GEM Random Drawing of Best Finds
\$250 Visa Gift Card
Mike Beck
Justine Michael

RLI Random Drawing of Best Finds
4 hours PTO
Rick Turner
Mike Henry



RUDOLPH LIBBE INC
GEM INC
GEM ENERGY
RUDOLPH LIBBE PROPERTIES

HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR SAFETY

RLG invests in foremen training to keep ironworkers safe while at height

Foremen play a critical role in recognizing, planning and implementing fall hazard controls. That's why GEM foremen and RLG safety professionals recently participated in an Iron Workers-sponsored program to make sure they have the training needed on the selection, installation and use of common personal fall arrest systems for steel erection work.

The program, held at Seagate Centre in Toledo, combined classroom and hands-on training using the latest fall arrest systems, according to Wayne Creasap, the Iron Workers' district representative for health and safety.

"GEM and RLI are always leaders in safety in northwest Ohio," Creasap said. "We are grateful that GEM and RLI took the time to send their leaders to this course. They invested to keep their workers and our members safe on the job."

Instructors from 3M Personal Safety



Division and the Iron Workers International union taught the program. The foremen learned on a unique fall protection training structure that was erected by area Iron Workers' apprentices.

Chris Haeft, GEM's general foreman for structural steel, said key parts of the training included how the new fall arrest technology works and how to use charts to calculate the

distance to any potential hazard.

"The big takeaway was the importance of the new retractables and leading-edge technology, as well as the different uses of the horizontal E-Z lines for the tie-offs," Haeft said.

"You need to know how they work and how to read their charts," he said.

FIND IT-FIX IT

Keep reporting 'Finds' and 'Fixes' to keep yourself, coworkers safe

Unsafe behavior: Two apprentices were seen torching over the top of their own hoses and bottles.

Solution: An associate stopped the work and had a conversation with the apprentices about the unsafe acts. The associate then personally moved the bottles and hoses before allowing the apprentices to proceed.

Unsafe Condition: A tie-down strap on a flat bed had a tear three quarters of the way through.

Solution: Trucking was notified to red tag and remove.

Unsafe behavior: Trades workers were seen using the overhead door to walk through.

Solution: The workers were advised that overhead doors are not for pedestrian traffic and to use the man door five feet away.

Unsafe Condition: Three argon hoses were run at clothesline height near scaffold.

Solution: Associate repositioned the hoses to a safer height.

Unsafe behavior: Worker walked under boom of forklift as it was being lowered.

Solution: The associate stopped the worker and explained the dangers of walking under the boom.

Unsafe act: An apprentice had a harness on but was not tied off while using aerial lift.

Solution: The apprentice was stopped from going further and advised to tie off.

Unsafe Act: An associate was seen using a wire wheel without a face shield.

Solution: The associate was informed that he needs to use a face shield when using the wire wheel.

Unsafe condition: Drop-in anchors were observed sticking up from the floor after a support was relocated.

Solution: An associate put caution tape around the anchors and notified the contractor of the hazard.

Unsafe act: Workers were observed wearing shaded eye protection while under the building cover.

Solution: Workers were told they needed clear safety glasses due to the low light conditions.

Unsafe act: Person seen walking under a suspended load.

Solution: Work was stopped. Person was advised of the danger of this hazardous act.

PREPARE FOR TORNADO SEASON

If a tornado warning is issued, all workers must move to designated shelter areas within the building. If no area has been designated, move to an interior corridor away from windows and await further instructions.

If no structure is available:

- Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If there is flying debris, pull over and park.

- Take cover in a parked vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat and anything else that can serve as a cushion.

- Do not go under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.

- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.