

# SAFETY MATTERS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

## FIFI REWARDS IMPROVED

### Monthly gift card doubles!

The Find It-Fix It program where people resolve safety issues before they become potential incidents and injuries has been a tremendous success.

To further recognize and encourage participation by individuals at RLG



**Stronger Together.  
Safer Together.**

worksites, the reward has been doubled. Beginning on Jan. 3, report your first FIFI of the month and receive a \$20 gift card!

GEM will continue to offer a hi-

visibility T-shirt as an alternative gift. RLI will offer the T-Shirts as an alternative gift on a trial basis.

The rest of the program stays as is, with monthly and yearly winners.

Participating is easy! When you notice an unsafe action, condition or behavior:

- Don't wait! Take immediate action.
- Talk to the individual involved.
- Remove the hazard or take the equipment out of use and tag it if necessary.
- If you cannot remove a hazard, keep others away with barricades or cones.
- Notify your supervisor if necessary.
- Complete your Find It-Fix It on the RLG safety app.
- If you have not loaded the app on your phone, please do so, or ask your supervisor or a co-worker to submit the FIFI for you, or complete the Find It-Fix It section of your STAC card and turn it in to your supervisor.



*Limited lighting, trip hazards and changing light conditions are some of the issues that need to be addressed prior to an early morning pour.*

## EARLY MORNING POURS

### Many safety issues to address when pouring concrete before sunrise

At least 50% of a foreman's valuable time is spent on planning when concrete must be poured in the early morning hours.

"As with any job, the pre-task planning is critical for safety," said RLI Cement Supervisor Tim Mack. "Before pouring we make sure everyone is engaged, knows the plan, and is ready to safely perform the work."

Communication is key during the planning stage. Project planners set expectations with vendors and suppliers and then reconfirm before pour day that they are ready and conditions have not changed.

The correct manpower needs to be

scheduled, while considering other pours that may be going on elsewhere. Local noise restrictions need to be checked and proper community notifications need to be made.

Workers must keep the entire site free of clutter and take steps to avoid puddles and dirt/stone piles.

Lighting needs to be oriented so trades workers are not blinded. The lighting conditions will change with sunrise so workers must be prepared to switch from clear safety glasses to shaded/colored lenses.

"Good lighting and a clutter-free site helps ensure we have a safe and successful pour," Mack said.

## ON-THE-JOB MEDICAL EVALUATION AND CARE

### Paramedic Deb Gacsal now stationed at RLG headquarters in Walbridge

**Deb Gacsal**, the paramedic who was stationed at North Star BlueScope, and most recently at First Solar PGT-03, can now be found at RLG headquarters in Walbridge. In the event of an injury or illness, field and office associates can call **(412) 758-2119** or **(419) 725-3174** to discuss how to proceed.

The injured/ill person can be evaluated or treated in person or via video conferencing. The office also is where annual, random, for cause and post-incident drug testing will take place.



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## THANK YOU FOR WORKING SAFELY



Working on a mobile scaffold requires proper PPE and careful planning. RLI bricklayers (left to right) Mason Foreman **Josh Emans**, **Kurtis Sutter**, Tender Foreman **Dylan Coy**, **Trent Campbell**, **Von Sloma**, **Alex St. John**, **Terry Ragland** and Tender Foreman **Ron Bielawski** (not pictured) used retractable harnesses with guide ropes to climb the scaffolding for the 72-foot, 7-inch tall stair tower at the Toledo School for the Arts in downtown Toledo. The staircase was internally braced with the help of Daily Engineering Inc.

## SAFETY TRAINING

### Staying current is staying safe

There is a lot that can change with health and safety in just a few years. It's one reason why GEM conducts periodic OSHA training.

"We have to keep current. We want our associates equipped with the best training and information to keep them safe at the jobsite," said GEM Operations Manager Bill Cornett, who oversees its safety program.

New rules for communication about hazardous substances, crane standards, silica exposure limits, and aerial lift regulations are some of the areas where standards have changed in just a few years, Cornett said.

GEM recently held its OSHA 30 training session for seven electricians, two ironworkers, one insulator and three project managers/engineers.

## FIND IT, FIX ITS: REPORT YOURS!

### Everyone plays an important role in finding and correcting unsafe conditions at the worksite

**Unsafe condition:** A forklift driver was driving with the ratchet strap hanging down in front of the rear wheel.

**Solution:** The associate stopped the driver and informed him.

While OSHA has a 10-hour course designed for entry-level workers, its 30-hour course is intended for supervisors or for workers with some safety responsibility. It provides a greater depth and variety of training on an expanded list of topics associated with workplace hazards than the 10-hour course.

Among other topics, participants focused on four of OSHA's priorities: fall protection, electrocution, "struck by" (as in getting hit by a moving piece of equipment), and "caught in or in-between" (as in a confined space or machinery)." Students had class for 7 1/2 hours a day over four days and had first aid/CPR/AED instruction on the final day.

**Unsafe behavior:** An associate smelled cigarette smoke inside a work area and found a worker smoking inside the building.

**Solution:** The associate informed him that smoking is not allowed on our projects.

## NEW TOOL

### Ground Rod Dawg available

Eliminating the need to use a ladder obviously reduces the fall risk. A tool relatively new to our warehouse can improve safety when drilling ground rods.

The Ground Rod Dawg tool is attached to a hammer drill. Once the rod is driven down far enough, the tool will hammer from top to finish driving the rod under grade.



The tool also accomplishes the task much quicker than the usual method of getting on a ladder to pound the rod under grade.



Safety Specialist Ron 'Radar' Dickens leads the class through safety training. The participants received a certificate showing they successfully completed the 30 hours.

GEM also makes sure that its safety professionals who teach the courses receive OSHA-approved instructor training at least every four years so that the company's safety training program is continuous and up to date.

Staying current with OSHA training -- in addition to being wise policy -- also helps ensure we meet customers' safety standards as well.