

SAFETY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

BEING THE 'GO-TO' FOR A CUSTOMER

Confidence in GEM associates' approach to safety leads to more work

IronUnits, LLC - When Cleveland-Cliffs needed to replace another electrical contractor, primarily for safety reasons, they went straight to Craig Turnow, general electrical foreman at GEM.

The customer made GEM an offer: if they could immediately mobilize 18 electricians, they could finish the electrical work for the stacker reclaimer.

"The GEM team is making it happen," Turnow said. "A big part of why we got the work is because we haven't had any safety issues. All it takes is one recordable out here and I think there's no way we would be offered work. It's a risk for the customer to change contractors so close to the end of a project."

Planning the job before beginning a project is key, Turnow says. "The biggest challenge for us on this project is lockout/tagout, and we had our lockout/tagout meeting before we started work. We also make sure we have all the safety equipment we'll need to finish the project."

"Associates like Craig Turnow and this approach to safety are the heartbeat of GEM."

**- Monte Goodremont
Safety Specialist**

Turnow adds, "We've been out here for 16 months and it's a very challenging site. I've been very happy with the electricians' safety performance."

What makes us a go-to for this customer?

Building a reputation for being knowledgeable. Being willing to take on challenges and see them through. Being willing to 'scramble' - and do it all safely, says Monte Goodremont, safety specialist contracted to Rudolph Libbe on the IronUnits site.

"Because of Craig Turnow and his team, the GEM mentality and their history at IronUnits, the jobs keep coming," Goodremont says. "Craig and his group have put GEM in a place where it's shining on this project. We've got an excellent record. Associates like Craig Turnow and this approach to safety are the heartbeat of GEM."

MONDELEZ EHS DAY

GEM's expertise in lockout-tagout shines at Mondelez EHS Day

Being invited to participate in a customer's safety event is a compliment.

With a great safety record at Mondelez, GEM was asked to join in the Toledo Flour Mill's Environmental Health & Safety Day for customers and employees in August.

"We chose lockout-tagout as our topic for the event," says **Brian Ferree**, GEM electrical project manager.

Ferree and **Lee Kemritz**, GEM electrician foreman, staffed the table and shared information on lockout-tagout basics, OSHA requirements and lockout/tagout devices for different energy sources.

They handed out pocket cards with lockout-tagout safety tips for quick field



Lee Kemritz shares GEM's LOTO information at Mondelez's EHS day.

reference, GEM pens and key chains/bottle openers/flashlights.

"We at the Toledo Flour Mill would like to thank all of you from the bottoms of our

hearts!" says Jamie Morris at Mondelez. "This was one of the best EHS events we had at our plant!"

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USE FIND IT-FIX IT

Share your 'finds' and solutions to keep us safe

Complete a Find It-Fix It report every time you identify and eliminate a hazard.

Find It-Fix It is a great tool for documenting and sharing everything we learn about improving our safety.

Here are some recent GEM finds:

Unsafe behavior: A worker was driving a cart while texting.

Solution: An associate told him to stop using his phone.

Unsafe condition: Two angle irons were sticking out of concrete supports.

Solution: An associate marked them with orange paint.

Unsafe behavior: Workers were on a tower with lightning in the area.

Solution: An associate received a text alert that lightning was 6 miles away and told the workers to come down.

Unsafe condition: Live electrical wires were hanging out of a wall box.

Solution: An associate identified the circuit, locked and tagged it out, put wire nuts on the wires and put them in the box.

Unsafe behavior: A tradesman was using a Baker scaffold rack to gain height.

Solution: An associate stopped the work and got him a scissor lift.

Unsafe condition: The crane ball was left

down 5 feet off the ground.

Solution: An associate raised the crane all the way and asked the crew to be mindful.

Unsafe behavior: The owner's staff was standing too close to the building edge.

Solution: An associate advised them to back up 6 feet from the edge.

Unsafe behavior: Many forklifts were driving fast in a work area while associates were in an elevated lift.

Solution: An associate asked the forklift drivers to slow down.

Unsafe condition: An associate's retractable became tangled in piping.

Solution: Another associate suggested using a second lanyard to tie off.

Unsafe behavior: A customer's employee was in a blast furnace without safety glasses.

Solution: An associate told him to get his safety glasses and he got them from the lunch room.

Unsafe condition: An associate noticed a methanol filter dripping.

Solution: The associate immediately removed all GEM associates from the area until the plant could rectify the issue.

Unsafe condition: An associate noticed oxygen and acetylene bottles left on.

Solution: The associate turned them off.

THE VALUE OF GAS MONITORS

Proactive safety tools protect us in poorly ventilated areas

Any time you're using gas-, diesel- or propane-powered equipment inside a building or a poorly-ventilated area, request a 4-gas monitor from GEM safety.

GEM uses 4-gas monitors to protect workers when there is a possibility of a hazardous atmosphere.

The 4-gas monitors test for lower explosive limits (LEL), carbon monoxide (CO), oxygen (O2) and hydrogen sulfide (H2S).

GEM crews can minimize or eliminate CO

hazards by keeping gas-powered equipment out of enclosed or poorly ventilated areas or by switching to electric-powered equipment.

Gas monitors are highly effective at warning workers of hazardous atmospheres, but your knowledge and commitment are the best protection against safety incidents.

Use our equipment to support your ability to recognize jobsite hazards through pre-job planning, training and experience.

DRIVE SAFELY DURING DEER SEASON

After daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 3, be especially careful on the roads.

Most deer-related collisions happen in November, so stay focused when you're driving in areas with a large deer population.

Deer and other animals are also more active at night, especially from 6-11 p.m.

If you're involved in a crash:

1. Call the police.
2. Note the date, time, location and take photos to document the incident.
3. Report the crash immediately to your auto insurance company.
4. Never approach a wounded deer - let the authorities handle it.

To avoid crashes with deer:

- Scan the road and shoulders ahead.
- Be prepared for more than one deer to be in the area at a time.
- Use your high beams when there is no oncoming traffic.
- Use your low beams when you're following another driver or approaching another car.
- If you see a deer, try to slow down, move over or blow your horn to scare the deer out of the road.
- Never swerve - you can cause a more serious crash or lose control of your vehicle.
- If you can't avoid a collision with a deer, press the brakes firmly and stay in your lane.
- Always wear your seatbelt - 60 percent of fatal animal crashes happen when the driver is not wearing a seatbelt.
- Lower your speed, especially at dusk and dawn.