

SAFETY MATTERS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

ANNUAL RLI SAFETY DAY

Sessions covering mental health, fall protection, a reminder that safety is tops among our values

Asking questions, participating in safety planning and making sure others see your commitment to safety are critical to keeping our worksites free of incidents, RLI President **Jeff Schaller** said at the company's annual Safety Day program.

The program, held at Penta Career Center in Perrysburg, was the first since before the pandemic. Trades workers, construction management associates, safety specialists and office staff participated in the program developed by the RLI Safety Department.

"One of the key differences between a good safety program and safety excellence is participation," Schaller said.

Topics included sessions on mental health, medical issues, aerial lifts,

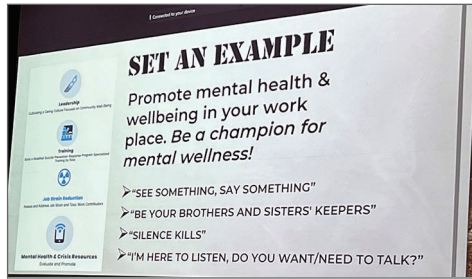
DUE DILIGENCE MEANS WORK CAN SAFELY BE DONE

RLG rigging team makes sure equipment is right for the job

When an RLG project team was set to lift a vehicle assembly alignment machine into place for a customer, they were told the weight was approximately 29,000 pounds.

But the mobile lift they were supposed to use was rated for 30,000 pounds maximum. And the preliminary scope of work was short on crucial details.

The RLG rigging team, which included RLI Project Managers **Pat Carney** and **Nick Smith**, GEM Assistant Project Manager **Mike Glaze**, GEM Project Controls' **Seth Parkhurst**, Ironworker Superintendent **Luke Hauser**, Millwright Superintendent **Bailey Bejcek**, Millwright General Foreman **Beau Bejcek**, Millwright Account



Mental health issues in the construction industry are at epidemic levels.

excavation planning and inspection, demolition, mapping, OSHA, mast climbing, tools and other information.

Mental health is a critical issue in construction as construction workers are five times more likely to commit suicide than workers in other occupations. Chris Sanders, corporate safety director for Valley Interior Systems in Columbus, gave a presentation that encouraged workers to listen to their coworkers when they have problems, but do so without criticizing or giving advice.

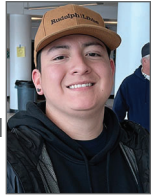
Manager **Ron DiPerna**, retired Millwright Account Manager **Pat Butterfield**, Ironworker Superintendent **Terrance Chessmore** and GEM Safety Specialist **Thomas Hardwick**, provided valuable input. They were not about to move the machinery until satisfied the mobile lift had plenty of capacity to handle the job and that a detailed lift plan was in place as there was no center of gravity marked on the machinery.

Their due diligence -- despite an exceptionally tight deadline for the work -- led them to weigh the machinery themselves and they discovered the actual weight was nearly 35,000 pounds, well past the 75-ton mobile lift's capacity. They worked quickly to procure a 110-ton mobile lift and didn't begin until the lift plan was spelled out in detail.

"Sometimes all someone needs is someone who cares and actively listens to their struggle," Sanders said.

Jonathan Hernandez, a carpenter, said the aerial lift session will make him more aware of his surroundings while working.

"It's important to understand where blind spots are. With just a little glance, you don't always see everybody around you," he said.



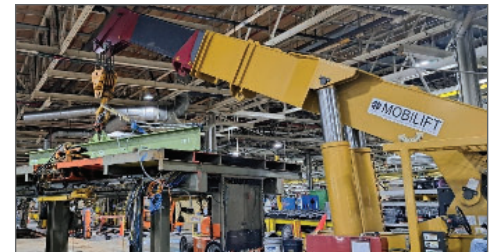
Jonathan Hernandez



Corey Rieman

Cement mason **Corey Rieman** said that class educated him on specific dangers of working around electricity and selecting the most appropriate lift to safely complete the job.

"I didn't realize before that there were that many kinds of lifts out there," Rieman said.



The RLG team was fortunate to find a 110-ton mobile lift on short notice.

"It was a complex job that required very specific equipment," said GEM Boiler Division Vice President **Bob Dzierzak**. "Fortunately, the team found a great solution to do the job safely."

"Without the due diligence exercised by the team, this could have turned out far worse," said RLI Director of Field Operations **Mike Keane**. "The team's dedication to safety is commendable."



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SAFETY TRAINING: MINE SAFETY CLASSES AT GEM

Associates dig deep to learn how to stay safe at quarry worksites

GEM associates are not likely to be descending into any coal mines in the future, but 24 recently received training necessary to work at sites regulated by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Businesses such as the Martin Marietta Aggregates Quarry on Woodville Road in Lima City are also regulated by MSHA and GEM is performing work there.

"A mine is really any hole in the ground," said GEM Safety Specialist **Jason Scott**. "For them to be onsite, they have to have full MSHA training and abide by MSHA rules and regulations."

GEM combines its MSHA training with its OSHA training so associates can complete them in one session. GEM Project Manager **Eric Fair**, who is at the Martin Marietta site, said there are different hazards in mines that workers need to recognize.

"Some examples are the use of very large equipment to move materials, falling rocks and explosions when blasting is done to loosen materials to be harvested," Fair said.

MSHA requires CPR and first aid training, while OSHA does not, but GEM provides



MSHA-mandated safety training is necessary when at sites such as quarries.

that training to all associates in the field. The recordkeeping MSHA requires is more detailed than what OSHA requires, Scott said.

The associates received MSHA training in two separate classes.

Fair said that having an MSHA training specialist onsite was especially helpful to GEM associates.

Electrical Supervisor **Eric Walentowski** said learning about the different recordkeeping requirements also was an important part of the training.

"What was very helpful to me was the documentation, what all needs to be documented and how it should be documented, and the correct way to avoid fines upon an inspection," Walentowski said.

FIND IT, FIX IT

Staying safe takes all of us

Unsafe condition: An associate noticed a concrete and anchor failure on a newly erected structural column.

Solution: The associate stopped work and evacuated the area. Safety and engineering was contacted and the column was temporarily braced.

Unsafe behavior: An associate observed another associate cutting a gasket with a razor while not wearing cut resistant gloves.

Solution: The associate stopped him from working and obtained proper gloves for him.

Unsafe act: An associate observed a contractor climbing on top of a tow motor cage to access the dumpster elevated above the dumpster.

Solution: The associate educated the contractor about the unsafe act and the fall protection policy.

Unsafe condition: Welding gas cylinders were secured to a temporary fence panel.

Solution: An associate called a foreman to have the cylinders placed in a proper storage rack.

Unsafe behavior: A fire sprinkler fitter was not wearing safety glasses.

Solution: An associate stopped him and asked him to put safety glasses on.

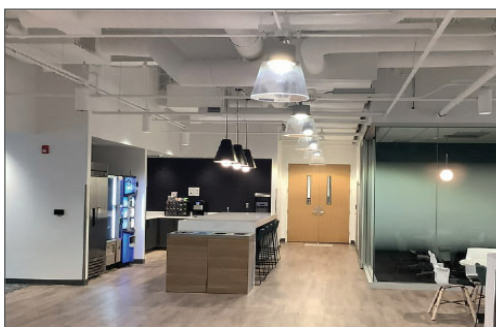
CLEAN HOUSE

Consistent housekeeping keeps workers and customers safe

It isn't hard to see how a worksite cluttered with packaging materials, excess building materials, tools, gear, spilled fluids, dust and dirt and other items can turn into a serious safety hazard. Slips, trips and falls can easily happen when housekeeping falls by the wayside.

But housekeeping isn't simply a chore: It's an integral part of the safety plan for each particular job.

For example, RLG Southeast Michigan Superintendent **Steve Masserant** is part of a group that performs ongoing maintenance and specific construction tasks at the Toyota North America Research and Development facility



RLG associates in Michigan renovated this kitchen at Toyota's R&D facility, which was challenging with Toyota workers nearby.

in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Associates must work around the customer's activities in lab rooms, dynamometer test cells, break rooms, and the cafeteria, among other areas. The safety of the customer's workforce and RLG associates cannot be compromised by careless housekeeping. The topic is a part of the group's daily safety huddle.

"Because we are working in the same room or rooms with our customer, we are expected to condense our work area as much as possible, which makes housekeeping a primary focus to maintain a safe working environment," Masserant said.

"Defining our work zones can be a challenge sometimes, as some of these spaces are small with delicate equipment in them."

At present, the team is installing EV chargers in high-bay areas, with Toyota workers going about their tasks on either side of them. Masserant's group will "create a wall" between their area and the customer's space so there is no overlap – all of their equipment and materials stay within their work area to minimize the hazard risk.