

SAFETY MATTERS

JULY/AUGUST 2019

'TAKE 2' PROVES ITS VALUE AGAIN

With one last inspection, GEM associates eliminate a hazard

After receiving hot work permits to cut into a high-pressure vessel, GEM boiler-makers did one last lockout/tagout inspection before starting their tasks – and found a red flag.

They prevented a potentially serious incident because the vessel, 12 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter, was full of a highly combustible product.

"We thought we should just look this over one more time," says **Jerry Cooper**, GEM boilermaker foreman. "It wasn't opened up or vented. We didn't see any isolation tags. That right there red-flagged it."

Cooper and his coworkers immediately

called the customer's plant operations. "Plant operations came down, looked at it and called the control room," Cooper says.

"The control room confirmed it was 98 percent full of dangerous material," Cooper adds. "We stopped the job. Operations drained and rinsed the tank, and the next day, we made sure the vessel was opened up before we started working."

"We're trying to look for these signs from years of experience and what the [union] halls taught us. This is a prime example of what that training is worth," says **Eric Riley**, boilermaker general foreman.

"Safety is on us. ... Jerry saw the warning signs and stopped work until the environment was safe."

**- Eric Riley
GEM general foreman**



GEM associates decided to make one more inspection of this vessel before starting work.

"Safety is on us," Riley adds. "Jerry saw the warning signs and stopped work until the environment was safe. Then, once we got started, we nailed the job. We knocked it out."

A FIND IT-FIX IT RECORD

RLI co-op submits 25 finds in one month

Landon Richards, an RLI co-op, submitted a record 25 Find It-Fix Its during the month of June.

Richards says, "If I see something, I fix the problem so it doesn't create a bigger problem later on."

If he can't eliminate a hazard himself, he talks to a foreman or superintendent. He makes looking for finds part of his daily routine. "If you are walking the site, make safety something you look for."

Look for things that are easy to miss, he

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RLI co-op**

suggests. "The best advice I have received is 'Go where other people don't.' I try to do this every time I walk the site."

He adds, "It makes a huge difference because you get to see more of the project, and find more issues. However, most of the finds were just from

my daily tasks that I do on site."

Let's step it up

Can you submit a Find It-Fix It for every unsafe behavior and condition you identify and correct? We can help eliminate incidents by stepping up participation.



Landon Richards

True personal commitment to safety is 24/7/365, so when you eliminate a safety hazard away from work, fill out a Find It-Fix It form the next day.

For examples of Richards' finds, see the back page.

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USE OUR FIND IT-FIX IT PROGRAM

It's an important tool for sharing best practices in safety

Every time you eliminate a hazard, complete a Find It-Fix It report.

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

Here are some recent GEM finds:

Unsafe behavior: A worker was standing on a stepladder leaning against a wall.

Solution: An associate told the worker to open the ladder and use it properly.

Unsafe condition: While removing insulation, an associate noticed a lack of support on a 50-foot line.

Solution: The associate called a pipefitter to add support.

Unsafe behavior: Crane lifts were being performed without sounding an alarm.

Solution: A worker suggested that the crew use an air horn.

Unsafe condition: An associate noticed that his flash suit-rated gloves were past due for testing.

Solution: The associate notified the foreman, removed the gloves from use and waited for new gloves before performing work.

SET YOUR OWN FIND IT-FIX IT RECORD

If you're not submitting Find It-Fix Its regularly, here's how to get started

> Find It-Fix It record continued from front

If you're not submitting Find It-Fix Its regularly, start by paying attention to what you do every day.

Chances are, you're already finding and fixing hazards. Now, you need to get in the habit of submitting a Find It-Fix It every time you do.

Here are some of Landon Richards' finds:

Unsafe behavior: An associate was backing a Gradall into the road without a spotter.

Solution: Richards stopped the operator and acted as his spotter.

Unsafe condition: A warning line on the

Unsafe condition: The bolts on a railing were close to coming off and the bottom of the railing was not correctly positioned.

Solution: An associate tightened the bolt, put the railing in the correct position and notified the foreman.

Unsafe condition: While reading a rescue plan, an associate noticed the plan didn't contain a point of entry.

Solution: The associate called Total Safety to add the point of entry to the plan.

Unsafe condition: The doors were not barricaded while another trade was using a lift.

Solution: An associate taped the doors off and notified the other trade.

Unsafe behavior: While an associate was in a scissor lift, another worker walked underneath the lift.

Solution: The associate in the lift stopped work immediately.

Unsafe condition: During a rainstorm, an associate noticed a leak from the roof running down the wall over the top of and behind the main electrical panel.

Solution: The associate contacted the building owners and a GEM electrician.

roof had been torn apart by high winds.

Solution: Richards fixed the warning line with new caution tape.

Unsafe behavior: An associate was not wearing earplugs as he was using a large impact wrench.

Solution: Richards gave his coworker earplugs.

Unsafe condition: A trailer hitch did not have a safety pin.

Solution: Richards found a pin in a gang box and put it on the hitch.

Unsafe condition: An extension cord was lying across the floor with nothing plugged into it.

Solution: Richards coiled the cord and put it in the gang box.

PLAN FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Be prepared for severe weather on jobsites.

- When there is lightning, stop all outdoor work and seek shelter.
- You can start outdoor work again 20 minutes after lightning is last seen near the project site.
- If a tornado warning is issued, move to designated shelter areas in the building or an interior corridor away from windows.

If you're outdoors and there are no buildings nearby:

- Get in a vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- If there is flying debris, pull over and park.
- Get in a parked vehicle, fasten the seat belt and cover your head with your arms and a coat, blanket and anything that can serve as a cushion.
- If you're not near a building or vehicle, lie in an area lower than the level of the road. Protect your head with your arms and anything that can serve as a cushion.
- Do not go under an overpass or bridge. A flat location lower than the level of the road is safer.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in an urban or congested area. Instead, seek shelter in a nearby building.