

# SAFETY MATTERS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

## SAFETY FAIR

GEM a partner in keeping everyone safe at Cenovus' Oregon refinery

**Oregon** — The GEM team at the Cenovus Energy refinery recently participated in a safety fair at the facility to celebrate a milestone of no major incidents thus far in 2023.

The annual fair, which included a cookout, safety vendors' tent and a dunking booth, is designed to keep safety at the forefront of everybody's thoughts, said **Joe Shinaver**, GEM's onsite safety specialist.

"Our goal is always zero incidents. You go home the same way you came in everyday, whatever it takes," Shinaver said.

The fair gives contractors like GEM the opportunity to talk about safety in a relaxed environment with the Cenovus' Joint Health and Safety Committee as well as other subcontractors.

It also gives GEM associates the chance to see the latest in safety gear, ask questions, and then pass on information about the latest equipment to the RLG community.



GEM's **Joe Shinaver** (bottom right), grills the food for workers (bottom left) while vendors (above) discuss new safety gear.

## UNDERGROUND SURPRISES

St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center work means planning for the unexpected



Some of the underground infrastructure at St. Vincent's is more than a century old.

**Toledo** — The crew at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center is used to the unexpected as they install a new sanitary sewer under, over and between critical infrastructure at Toledo's first hospital.

While they may need to adjust their plans on the fly, everyone on the team is empowered to stop the work to ensure team safety as well as that of hospital staff and patients.

It's about understanding that they are stronger as a team than as individuals and should rely on the competence of their fellow RLG associates.

"We do a great deal of planning before starting our work but realize we may have to change those plans when we encounter the unexpected," Project Manager **Rob Wissolik** said. "It's reassuring to know that we can rely on the expertise of our construction trade professionals in the field if we have to make changes."

The team stresses communication among all parties, whether they are in the office or the trailer, in the field or an RLG associate or subcontractor.

"We visualize the whole process from start to finish," said Field Foreman **Donnie**

**'We need to think each task all the way through, and the equipment, materials and manpower that we'll need.'**

— **Donnie Fredritz**  
RLI Field Foreman

**Fredritz.** "We go over the plan with our lead operator (**Doug Helminiak**) and crew, and we welcome feedback from them, so we all know what we are doing from beginning to end."

At a job like St. Vincent's, where infrastructure can date back 100 years or more, the plan must be flexible.

"We stop to discuss and agree to changes in the game plan along the way," Fredritz said. "We need to think each task all the way through, and the equipment, materials and manpower that we'll need."

Crews work within the swing radius of heavy equipment every day, so being distracted invites disaster. Fredritz offered this advice for newer construction workers.

"Be fully engaged on the tasks at hand," he said. "Do not be distracted on your phone or with issues outside of work."



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# NEW EQUIPMENT: INGENUITY LEADS TO A SAFER WAY TO GROUT COLUMNS

RLI's Grout Trailer can prevent a lot of strain and pain for cement finishers

It's a win any time you can combine a safer way of working with a more efficient way to get the job done. That's exactly what happened when RLI associates got together and came up with the grout trailer.

The sheer number of baseplate columns to be grouted at First Solar's PGT-04 site can put a lot of strain on the body with the constant moving of heavy materials and tools.

The grout trailer is a self-contained unit designed to make grouting less of a strain and quicker. Instead of lugging material around from column to column, everything is now on the trailer: two pallets of grout, a 250-gallon water tank, a gas pump, a grout mixer that can mix five bags at a time, a toolbox and gang box.

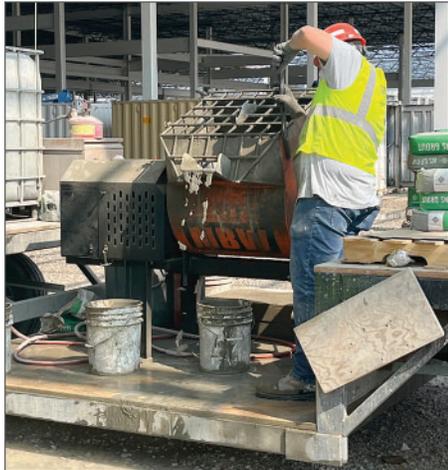
No more lugging individual bags of grout or buckets of water unnecessary distances. No need to stand on a bucket while mixing to keep it steady, a practice safety professionals were happy to see eliminated.



The grout trailer was developed by RLI Cement Finisher Foreman **Tim Mack**, Yard Manager **Ryan Euler**, Cement Finisher General Foreman **Matt Atkin**, **Scott Johnson** and **Scott Phillips**.

While grouting columns is still hard, physical work, the grout trailer takes some of the strain out of it, said RLI Yard Manager **Ryan Euler** said.

"It was just very labor-intensive and took forever to do," Euler said. "It's way safer and way more efficient. It's a lot easier on their bodies."



## THANK YOU FOR WORKING SAFELY



In our company culture, only safe behaviors and safe conditions are acceptable. GEM electricians **Brian Reardon**, left, and **Kevin Werner** work on some underground electrical PVC conduits at a worksite in Perrysburg Township.

## REPORT FIFIS: KEEP EVERYONE SAFE AND WIN PRIZES

Find It, Fix It program a critical part of RLG's safety efforts

**Unsafe act or condition:** An associate was driving a company vehicle in a building while talking on phone.

**Solution:** The associate was reminded of company policy prohibiting phone usage while driving.

**Unsafe act or condition:** Area flagging marking the roof edge had been blown down by a storm the previous day.

**Solution:** The associate repositioned the flagging so the roof's edge was properly marked.

**Unsafe act or condition:** Diesel and gasoline storage tanks located in a high traffic area were not barricaded properly.

**Solution:** Crew placed barricades in front of the tanks.

**Unsafe act or condition:** An associate

discovered someone had cut through the safety guard on the portable band saw.

**Solution:** The associate red-tagged the saw and took it out of service.

**Unsafe act or condition:** An associate was cutting without a face shield and a fire extinguisher.

**Solution:** A face shield and a fire extinguisher were provided to the associate.

**Unsafe act or condition:** While performing roof top work, an open hole was correctly guarded, but additional roof access points were not properly taped or barricaded.

**Solution:** The crew was directed to add the requested barricades and signs to other access points to prevent plant personnel from getting close to the work area.