

SAFETY MATTERS

MARCH/APRIL 2019

‘IT’S REALLY IMPRESSIVE’

Our insurance carrier and broker praise RLG safety at the First Solar site

First Solar, Lake Twp. – Our insurance carrier, Zurich North America, and our insurance broker, Oswald Companies, had strong praise for RLG safety - with First Solar as an excellent example of our commitment.

Timothy E. Walsh, a senior vice president with Oswald Companies, RLG’s insurance broker, praises the First Solar team:

“Zurich, the insurance company, said it’s one of the cleanest jobsites they’ve ever seen, and I’ve seen that firsthand.

“...safety is more than a tagline. It really is embraced by the RLG workers and the subcontract trades. It’s really impressive.”

**- Timothy E. Walsh
Oswald Companies**

“What always amazes me is the pace at which they are constructing that project, and to do it so quickly and at the same time, to be so safe is really quite an accomplishment.



GEM and RLI associates at the First Solar luncheon in their honor.

“The safety culture really runs through all of the RLG craft workers. They are doing a thing where if you see it, you fix it.

“The First Solar site “had over 300 [Find It-Fix It submissions] in January. That shows safety is more than a tagline. It really is embraced by the RLG workers and the subcontract trades. It’s really impressive.”



The First Solar substation is under construction.

Zurich North America and Oswald Companies treated GEM, RLI and the other contractors to a BBQ at the First Solar jobsite in February.

The lunch expressed “our appreciation and recognition for a successful and safe job to date,” says **Connor Ward**, account executive, Zurich North America.



First Solar's new plant is on target for completion in June.

ARE WE WORKING SAFELY?

It’s often the first thing customers notice

Marathon, Findlay - Customers value many qualities in contractors, but safety is increasingly the first thing they notice.

GEM has worked on various projects for 8-10 years at Marathon's Findlay location.

Marathon managers complimented GEM's recent performance on a chilled water system installation, with critical tie-ins to the central loop and data center.

Kevin Hartman, of Marathon Findlay, complimented quality, staffing and efficiency - but GEM associates’ approach to safety was first on his list:

"Each time I visited the work site, the GEM

crews were working safely and efficiently to finish the task. We were very happy with the amount of manpower provided and the quality of the tradesmen.

“Each time I visited the work site, the GEM crews were working safely and efficiently to finish the task.”

**- Kevin Hartman
Marathon Findlay**

“We still have a long way to go on this project. Keep up the good work and make sure Mark [Schwiebert] and his crew know how much we appreciate their efforts.”

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GEM'S BEST FINDS OF 2018

Every task is an opportunity to help us all get better at safety



Don Cherry (left) accepts a gift card for the Best Find of 2018 from Bill Cornett.

GEM's "Best Find" winners of 2018 show the power of Find It-Fix It.

They quickly corrected unsafe conditions. They stopped workers from performing tasks unsafely and then helped them eliminate the hazards - before an incident could happen.

1st Place, \$1,000 Best Buy gift card - Don Cherry

An associate was torching steel over the top of a gas can. Don Cherry stopped work until the gas can was removed from the work area.

2nd Place, \$750 Best Buy gift card - Robert Fisher

A 7/8-inch shackle was shaved down on the inside to make the opening wider. Robert Fisher took it out of service.

SAFE LADDER USE

Set them up properly, climb carefully and take your time

Before you climb, inspect the ladder, set it up properly and make sure it's in a safe location.

- Place ladders only on stable, dry and level surfaces that are free of clutter.
- Before placing a ladder, look for overhead light fixtures and sprinkler heads, and stay at least 10 feet from power lines.
- In high-traffic or congested areas, put barricades, cones or signs around ladders.
- Make sure straight ladders are secured and extend at least three feet above the level you need to reach - or

3rd Place, \$500 Best Buy gift card - Phil Wright

The water temperature at an eyewash station was over 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Phil Wright notified maintenance and operations.

Random drawing winner, \$250 Best Buy gift card - Brandon Brown

Brandon Brown smelled gas and noticed the regulator wasn't secure on the bottle. He tightened the bottle until it was secure.



Brandon Brown

Random drawing winner, \$250 Best Buy gift card - Jay Leininger

Jay Leininger found a crack in a 40-foot, 10,500-pound tank that was part of a critical lift. The lift was cancelled until the tank was repaired. Leininger informed the foreman and owner of the damage.



GEM Safety Specialist **Brad Lochard** (left) presents a gift card to **Jay Leininger**.

- install a grabbing device.
- Stepladders must lock into place, and both "dogs" must work on extension ladders.
- Make sure non-slip feet and treads are in good condition.
- Fold out stepladders before using them.

When you climb and work from a ladder, take your time and keep your balance.

- On a straight ladder, stay below the third rung from the top unless you're climbing onto a fixed surface like a roof.

REPORT EVERY NEAR-MISS

Reporting near-misses is just as important as reporting incidents.

In fact, reporting a near-miss can prevent incidents and it's an essential aspect of a strong safety culture.

So, why don't people report near-misses?

- They don't want to be blamed for problems or mistakes.
- They don't want to create more work.
- They don't want to be perceived as careless or as a troublemaker.

Here's why it's so important that every near-miss is reported:

- You're showing your safety commitment and helping to protect everyone on site.
- You're making us better at safety, as individuals and as a company.
- You're helping to keep these near-misses from happening again and leading to incidents.

If you're leading a team, encourage people to report near-misses - and recognize them for it.

If you're working on site, report all your near-misses - and support your coworkers when they do the same.