# SAFETYMATTERS

MARCH/APRIL 2021







Roman Epley GEM



Tyler LaFountain GEM



Devon Noe GEM



Eric Shirey GEM

# **BEST FINDS OF 2020**

#### **GEM and RLI winners**

Thank you, everyone who made our jobsites safer last year by submitting Find It-Fix Its. Please keep reporting finds in 2021!

1st Place - GEM \$1,000 Best Buy Gift Card

#### **Roman Epley**

Epley covered and marked a 6-foot-wide, 20-foot-deep hole that was unmarked and not covered properly.

2nd Place - GEM \$750 Best Buy Gift Card **Eric Shirey** 

Shirey found a 240-volt hot wire in a cabinet after an owner's representative stated that the power was off. Shirey stopped work and let the foreman know.

3rd Place - GEM \$500 Best Buy Gift Card

#### Tyler LaFountain

An associate was climbing steel with no safety harness or tie-off. LaFountain stopped the associate and gave them a harness.

Random Drawing - GEM \$250 Best Buy Gift Card **Devon Noe** and **Spencer Brogan** 



David Crozier RLI



Nate Henry



Montana Oberwegner RLI

1st Place - RLI 3 days off with pay

### **Montana Oberwegner**

A Gradall operator did not realize that he was flying a suspended load over workers in a hole. Oberwegner stopped the operator and had him put a tag line on the load to help control it.

2nd Place - RLI 2 days off with pay **Donnie Fredritz** 

While inspecting a retractable life line before it was needed, Fredritz noticed the plunger did not engage and disengage correctly. He red-tagged it and called for a replacement.

3rd Place - RLI 1 day off with pay

#### **Nate Henry**

A roofing contractor had stacked 22 bundles of shingles on a 24-foot-high scaffold. Henry removed the shingles to prevent the scaffold from collapsing.

Random Drawing - RLI
4 hours off with pay **David Crozier** and **Joe McCulley** 

# 30th Annual NW Ohio Safety & Health Day - May 19, 2021

# Sign up by May 15 - It's virtual!

SESSION 1, 8-9AM: Exoskeletons Past, Present and Future

Dr. Delia Treaster, Division of Safety and Hygiene

Exoskeletons - wearable devices that can augment a person's physical capabilities - are used in medical rehab, the military and in manufacturing jobs. Learn what they can and cannot do.

SESSION 2, 9:15-10:15AM
E Meetings, E Trainings, E Interviews, E for EVERYTHING
Ian McClellan, RLI
How to set up, host and use Zoom,
Skype, Teams and WebEx for meetings,

SESSION 3, 10:30-11:30AM Employer responsibilities during the pandemic

trainings, groups and interviews.

Carl Habekost of Bugbee & Conkle and Jim Yates of Eastman & Smith Legal issues involving COVID-19 and the workplace.

SESSION 4, 11:45AM-12:45PM OSHA: An Enforcement and Regulatory Update

Chad Positano and Dan Steffen of OSHA

Emphasis programs and enforcement initiatives with updates on COVID; local, regional and national fatality and injury/illness information; and an overview of OSHA's cooperative programs.

You can pre-register online until May 15. Go to safetyandhealthday.com



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# 'YOU GUYS DEFINITELY SET THE BAR'

### Zero incidents on fast-track Toyota project

### Toyota Calty Model Room, Ann Arbor

- RLG's southeast Michigan team completed a fast-track light upgrade with zero safety incidents for Toyota's Calty Design Group.

Throughout the 10-week project, tasks were performed in the same area as Toyota model designers every day.

Daily meetings were held to coordinate the activities of the contractors and Toyota employees who often occupied the same spaces.

# If only all of our past projects had run this smooth! You guys definitely set the bar."

Kelly Poe, office manager
 Calty Design Research Inc.
 Toyota Design Network

Every week, the team met Toyota's requirement for two to four Find It-Fix Its to be logged into Toyota's safety program. The project was completed two weeks ahead of the turnover date.

"This project was a 'TEAM' effort from everyone," says **Jim Hanner**, account

manager. "Very good communication from everyone and everyone worked together every day."

"Schedules were met on time with no safety incidents or property damage," says **Steve Masserant**, superintendent. "We had great coordination with the Calty Design Group and appreciate their help working with us and giving up their space to make this job a success."

"We couldn't have wished for a better coordination team and crew," says **Kelly Poe**, office manager, Calty Design Research, Toyota Design Network.

She adds, "You all communicated so well, listened, understood and accommodated our needs, checked in, explained everything to a T and were so respectful throughout. If only all of our past projects had run this smooth! You guys definitely set the bar."

Chris Fowler, project leader, Toyota, says: "RLG worked to overcome obstacles within our group and I appreciate the effort to overcome difficult situations presented by our PLEE requests and personalities. You guys always kept your cool and moved forward. Thanks again, team."

# Why we need to report every near miss and good catch

Here's why it's so important that every near miss and good catch is reported:

- We can properly investigate how and why each one occurred.
- We'll learn from each good catch and near miss, and become better at eliminating the hazards that led to them.
- We can identify trends and make improvements in our safety procedures.
- 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 near misses and good catches from happening again and leading to incidents.

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

If you're part of a team, report all your good catches and near misses - and support your coworkers for doing the same.

#### FIND IT-FIX IT

# Identify existing hazards and report the preventive steps you take

Be sure to include preventive steps and proactive communication among your Find It-Fix It submissions.

Here's a great example of proactive communication: A GEM associate noted in a toolbox talk that plumbers had put a lot of air pressure in the lines - making sure the team knew ahead of time.

More recent finds and solutions from RLI and GEM associates:

**Unsafe behavior:** A worker was using an incorrect ladder to enter a trench. **Solution:** An associate told him which ladder to use.

**Unsafe condition:** A worker was trying to get out of a tight parking spot with a

construction trailer behind it. **Solution:** An associate stopped him and spotted for him.

**Unsafe condition:** A motor, with no cover on the connection box, was running with wires connected without conduit. Live 2-gauge wire was flapping in the wind, potentially causing the wires to rub through and cause an arc flash event.

**Solution:** An associate shut down the unit and informed site personnel.

**Unsafe behavior:** A worker was grinding without a chin guard on his face shield, no fire extinguisher and had an extension cord running through the main hallway. **Solution:** An associate worked with him to correct all issues

**Unsafe behavior:** A worker was running a mixer while standing on the bucket. **Solution:** An associate told him not to stand on the bucket while running the mixer.

**Unsafe condition:** The red danger tape around a work zone was blocking the entryway to a storage room. A plant employee walked under the red danger tape to access the storage room.

**Solution:** An associate shortened up the work area and adjusted the tape so access was no longer blocked to the storage room. He asked the plant employee to tell the crew if they needed to access any area we were working in and explained the importance of the barricades with lift and overhead work going on in the area.

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