

# SAFETY MATTERS

MAY/JUNE 2021

## FIND IT-FIX IT'S VALUE

Situational awareness 'above and beyond the call'

**North Star/Project Aristotle** - During an air test near a mezzanine in late April, **Mark Maginn**, a fourth-year GEM apprentice, noticed a badly damaged 70-psi valve.

Six of the eight bolts had been sheared off the plate of the valve, which fed a natural gas line that supplied the main plant.

"It was a high-volume, high-pressure valve," says **Chad Kwiatkowski**, pipefitter foreman. "No gas was leaking at the time, but it was still an emergency."

McGinn acted quickly, notifying his foreman, **Nick Stasa**.

All GEM and RLI associates were evacuated from the area and the customer's crew repaired the hazard within hours, with GEM on standby.

## MORE FIND IT-FIX ITS

Associates speak up, take action and talk through safer ways to work

**Unsafe condition:** The plant had a 4-inch black vacuum hose running up the stairs which are also black.

**Solution:** An associate had the plant drape the hose over the edge and tie-wrap it.

**Unsafe behavior:** Workers went to walk through the site during a flyover.

**Solution:** An associate stopped them from walking under the cranes.

**Unsafe behavior:** A worker was cutting lumber and holding a circular saw with only one hand.

**Solution:** An associate informed him of



The damaged valve at North Star.

"We've got a really good reputation and relationship with North Star," Kwiatkowski says. "We push the importance of speaking up and situational awareness in our daily planners. We always stress reporting any hazard immediately."

"The situational awareness of these guys was really above and beyond the call," says **Steve Simkus**, GEM project manager.

the unsafe act and told him to use two hands.

**Unsafe condition:** A worker was using a rigging technique that would not hold the load properly.

**Solution:** An associate suggested a different way to rig the load correctly.

**Unsafe behavior:** A worker was cutting forms with the piece to be cut supported in one hand and the long piece on the ground.

**Solution:** An associate stopped him and explained the proper cutting technique to prevent kickback.

## LUNCH IS SERVED: A 'THANK YOU' TO BP'S RLG CREW AND SUBS

bp Husky Toledo Refinery locker room/cafeteria, Oregon - The RLI and GEM teams and subcontractors were treated to lunch in May for their commitment to safety on the 20,000-square-foot project.

"We wanted to uplift the team for continuing to work safely and having a clean jobsite," says Brian Liedel, RLI superintendent.

"We have a lot of good foremen and tradespeople on site, good participation in clean up and good participation in the muster meetings in the morning, where we meet with everyone and talk about what we're doing, leading up to our 'stretch and flex.'"

Liedel adds, "There's been good communication and an understanding of where people are working so it has made excellent coordination."

Project completion is scheduled for the second week in August.

"While executing this key project for the site, [RLG] has worked safely and completed quality work," says Nick Sandys, project manager and construction manager for bp Husky Toledo Refinery. "The workforce engagement and their commitment to safety has been key to the success so far. With the continued commitment to safety and quality, bp looks forward to completing the project."



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## BLUE WAVE/ARDAGH

### Customers trust our thorough safety planning

**Blue Wave/Ardagh, Huron** – Transforming an automotive parts supplier into an aluminum can manufacturer is complicated - but successful with RLG's strong safety approach.

GEM, the prime/general contractor, is moving all electrical and mechanical components not required for the new system. RLI's civil work includes removing concrete to install larger pads for equipment.

Phase 1: Demo of slab-on-grade and utilities, with new building additions, site work and utility demo/installation.

Phase 2/2A: Building a 400-square-foot warehouse addition.

Phase 3: Demoing concrete, process

## NW OHIO'S FIRST GAMMA KNIFE

### A complicated buildout with heavy medical equipment installation

**Mercy Health Perrysburg** - The Gamma Knife installation involved a complicated buildout of a vacant suite and rigging/installation of heavy medical equipment.

All work was performed safely and injury-free in an operating hospital from November 2020 through March 2021.

RLI was general contractor and self-performed concrete and wall demolition, concrete floors, carpentry and miscellaneous ICRA/cleanup, led by **Dan Diekman**, project manager; **Dalton Landers**, project engineer; and **Steve DeBaca**, superintendent.

GEM, led by **Brad Harhold**, project manager, performed rigging, equipment setting and some structural steel.

- The entrance into the existing concrete vault was nearly doubled in width, with another foot added in height so radioactive material can be switched out easily.
- Demo required the removal of nearly 60,000 pounds of solid concrete wall. Debris was hauled out on the hospital's second shift.

pipng, utilities, tanks and silos - with all trades working closely together.

The project involves thorough preplanning, walking down the jobsite daily and "foreseeing any problems before they actually occur," says **Aaron Sarkozi**, RLG regional safety manager.

"We're following our utility demo procedure and we stop working if anything changes in the field. We clearly mark everything before we start doing demolition and everybody signs off," Sarkozi says.

The customer sees RLI's and GEM's shared approach to safety as a plus. "They're leaning on us for that because we have such a good program that we both follow," Sarkozi says.

## WORKING IN THE HEAT

Stay hydrated throughout the day. Drink about 16 ounces of fluids before starting work and 5-7 ounces every 15-20 minutes.

Avoid dehydrating liquids like alcohol, coffee, tea and caffeinated soft drinks.

Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothes.

Slow down and work at an even pace. Pay attention to how you are feeling and know your limits.

Take rest and water breaks in a shady or air-conditioned area.

Wipe your face with a cool, damp rag and/or put it around your neck.

Be alert to signs of heat-related illness and check on your coworkers.



L-R: Concrete demo to expand the vault entrance and the Gamma Knife unloaded onto aluminum plates.

- The team pumped concrete through a hospital corridor and poured the floor slab during third shift.
- Rigging was needed for the 40,000-pound Gamma Knife radiation unit, the 25,000-pound loading machine and a 6,000-pound radioactive material container.
- A crew of ironworkers and millwrights offloaded the Gamma Knife onto machinery skates and set it in place. Heavy floor protection was required. Leading the rigging were **Craig Erchenbrecher**, millwright, and **Jason Harris**, ironworker, with planning support from **Bryan Milligan**, millwright superintendent.
- Underground utilities were extensive.
- Framing/drywall involved working with material in tight spaces, careful dust control and cleanup.
- A structural steel doorframe was installed and grouted full. A 6,000-pound, lead-lined door was then installed.
- Careful planning went into the security of the vault and the process for bringing in radioactive material.

"[RLG] exceeded all expectations with their leadership and coordination of this complex project," says **J. David Milhouse**, director, design and construction for Mercy Health.