

SAFETY MATTERS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

GEM FACILITATES BP SAFETY TRAINING

Luke McGarry earns kudos for supporting BP's Situational Awareness classes

BP-Husky Toledo Refinery - It's an honor when a customer asks you to help provide safety training.

Luke McGarry, GEM safety specialist at BP, was among the contractors invited to help facilitate BP's recent Situational Awareness training.



Luke McGarry

"I was more than happy to help out," says McGarry, who has worked at the BP site since he joined GEM eight years ago.

"A lack of situational awareness is one of

the leading causes of workplace injuries," McGarry added. "We were one team - contractor and BP supervision, all together - for this training."

In the program's first phase, about 300 "front line leaders" were trained - supervisors, superintendents, general foremen and foremen from BP and its contractors, including RLI and GEM.

Each person received four hours of training over two weeks. Next year, the training will be rolled out to all on site.

Chris Conley, CSP-safety team leader at BP, says, "Specifically, on several occasions, [Luke] led and drove engagement from the audience, by interjecting his

perspectives and sharing personal stories in support of the presented material."

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**- Luke McGarry
GEM Safety Specialist at BP**

Conley adds, "I can confidently say, without the support of Luke and a few of our other contractors, this training would have fallen flat. I appreciate the support and engagement by our contractor leadership."

GEM'S OSHA 30 GRADS

Coworkers share safety expertise and experience

GEM's onsite OSHA 30 training makes good use of our associates' experience, expertise and personal commitment as trainers.

During the 2019 training, 18 GEM associates were certified by early December.

"I have a much better understanding of what to look for and how to approach people with safety so everyone can go home at the end of the day."

**- Nathan Knapke
Solar Project Engineer
GEM Energy**

"By using our own subject matter experts as trainers, we get the full benefit of their expertise in all areas - those related to their usual duties at GEM and their knowledge outside those responsibilities," says **Ron Steinman**, lead tool repair technician.

GEM has offered in-house OSHA training since the early 2000s, says **Tim Greenlese**, safety coordinator.

"OSHA 30 certification doesn't expire, but the standards change yearly and some owners require recent training," says **Bill Cornett**, operations manager.

"By hosting these annual sessions in-house, we can customize the training to the exact types of work GEM self-performs," Cornett adds.



Bret Hilbert, project manager, in the OSHA 30 class on fire protection and prevention.

Another benefit: "Training tends to be more interactive with associates who already know each other and have things in common," Cornett says. "It's a great networking opportunity if you haven't met someone but have only 'heard the name.'"

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USE FIND IT-FIX IT

Share your 'finds' and solutions to keep us safe

Complete a Find It-Fix It report every time you identify and eliminate a hazard.

Find It-Fix It helps us track and share everything we learn about improving our safety.

Here are some recent GEM finds:

Unsafe behavior: An ironworker was spraying sparks from above.
Solution: An associate asked them to use hot blankets and notify people below when working above.

Unsafe condition: Bare wires were exposed in an exhaust fan cabinet which was not locked out.
Solution: An associate locked out/tagged out the unit until the wiring was fixed.

Unsafe behavior: A crew member was

climbing onto the mid-rail of scaffolding without a harness.

Solution: An associate told him to get down and get a harness.

Unsafe condition: A 20-foot Anaconda lanyard had a cut from rigging.

Solution: An associate removed it from the site and red-tagged it.

Unsafe behavior: Associates were preparing to use a nylon choker on a hard edge.

Solution: An associate stopped the work, explained the hazard and told them to use steel and softener.

Unsafe condition: Equipment was not centered and about to tip while being unloaded from a flatbed to cribbing on a washpad.

Solution: Associates signalled "all stop"

on the pickup and readjusted the cribbing.

Unsafe behavior: An operator was using his cell phone while in equipment.

Solution: An associate asked him to put his phone down.

Unsafe condition: An associate found a discarded razor blade on the ground.

Solution: He picked it up, wrapped it in tape to cover the edges and threw it away.

Unsafe behavior: A worker's HCN monitor was not turned on.

Solution: An associate turned on his monitor and bumped it for him.

Unsafe condition: An associate found a unit with a cracked, rotted heat exchanger.

Solution: The associate locked out the gas and notified the site contact.

GEM'S OSHA 30 GRADS

Coworkers share expertise and experience as onsite trainers

> Continued from front

GEM also schedules training sessions to be as convenient as possible for associates.

"We own the schedule. The schedule we ran this time was a bit more work for us as the trainers but it added a great deal of flexibility for the associates who attended the workshop," Cornett says.

GEM trainers

Rick Burson, electrician - electrocution
Bill Cornett, operations manager and former millwright - introduction to OSHA, foundations for safety leadership and welding/cutting

Ron Dickens, safety specialist - fall protection, stairs/ladders, material handling/storage/use/disposal, excavations, confined space entry, hazard recognition/prevention/awareness and health hazards in construction

Trevor Melton, safety specialist - PPE/life-saving equipment and managing safety/health

Dan O'Neal, safety specialist - struck by/caught in or between, powered industrial vehicles, cranes/derricks/hoists/eleva-

tors/conveyors and steel erection
Ron Steinman, lead tool repair technician - fire protection/prevention and tools

Contractors: **Blaise Steadman** of Zurich Insurance, motor vehicles; **Jay Garrett** of Seaway Scaffold, scaffold safety; and **Lori Saxton**, CPR/AED/FA.

GEM's OSHA 30 grads

Paul Anderson, project manager
Mike Bullock, project manager
Patrick Carney, project manager
Ernie Cedroni, project manager
Dawn Cousino, site administrative assistant
Mike Glaze, project engineer
Jason Harris, ironworker foreman
Bret Hilbert, project manager
Margaret Hutton, operations coordinator
Allison King, site administrative assistant
Brian Klatt, site management general manager
Jeff Layman, project manager
Nathan Knapke, project engineer
Luke McGarry, safety specialist
Jeremy Mitchell, project engineer
Tim Phillips, tool room
Josh Ramey, tool room
Matt Vineyard, pipefitter foreman

The value of OSHA 30

"I have a much better understanding of what to look for and how to approach people with safety so everyone can go home at the end of the day," says **Nathan Knapke**, GEM Energy solar project engineer.

"The [classes] that stand out the most were the fire protection/prevention and the welding. I was able to go to the Fab Shop and learn to stick weld. ... It was very interesting. The defensive driving information from Zurich was very good as well," says **Margaret Hutton**, GEM operations coordinator.

WANT TO BECOME OSHA 30-CERTIFIED?

Want to be OSHA 30-certified? Training is available to everyone.

To register for a class, respond to one of the OSHA 30 emails or email a member of the GEM safety department. If you don't have company email, see your supervisor.