

SAFETY MATTERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

'3 AND 3' ON RLI SAFETY

Associates share what we're doing well and where we need to improve

Armed with recent feedback from associates, RLI has valuable information for making our safety better than ever.

Three or more RLI associates from each trade and each department in our Walbridge, Plymouth and North Ridgeville offices listed three things we're doing well in terms of safety and three areas where we need to improve.

Here's what they said:

What are we doing well?

Our safety culture

- We are willing to help each other.
- People aren't afraid to ask questions.
- We learn from our mistakes.
- We "walk the talk."
- We practice continuous improvement.
- We are disciplined.
- Upper management owns the process and commits resources.
- Safety staff is knowledgeable and supportive.
- Safety needs/issues get fast response.
- Associates are informed of safety expectations.
- Good communication between field, office and safety.

Programs and processes

- Find It-Fix It
- Pre-planning
- Pre-task planning
- Pre-installation meetings
- STAC cards

Equipment, technology and training

- Use of modular aluminum shoring
- Good quality and variety of available tools and safety equipment
- Good superintendent training
- We get other trades to buy into safety

- Blindspot safety recognition

On the jobsites

- Housekeeping
- Fall protection
- Safe ladder use

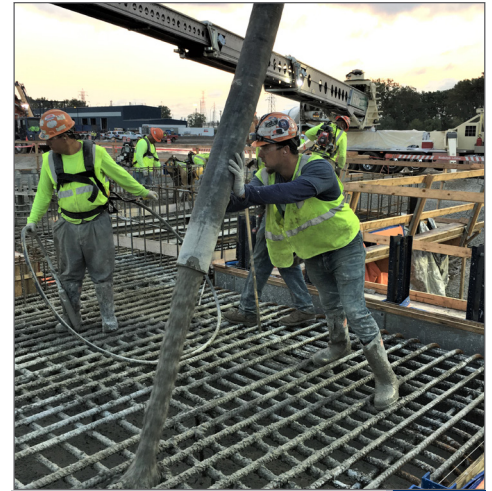
What needs improvement?

Equipment, technology and training

- More specific safety training
- Timely replacement of tools and equipment
- Better inspections of returned tools
- Make sure tools work properly when sent out
- Consider an electronic/app for audits
- At satellite offices, improve the selection and knowledge of fall protection equipment
- Better training for preconstruction/estimators on safety requirements and costs

Programs and processes

- Improve safety on out-of-town work
- Consistent enforcement of safety requirements across all jobs
- Better quality pre-task planning from superintendents and foremen
- Include foremen in pre-install meetings
- Keep associates engaged in safety
- More safety department interaction with projects
- Improve communication about hazards and solutions
- More safety recognition
- Make sure office staff uses proper PPE on jobsites
- Improve incident/near miss reporting
- Better communication of policy changes to field and satellite offices
- Improve quality of safety audits
- Clean up intranet safety forms and make them easy to find



Strong communication, thorough planning, high-quality PPE and equipment received high marks from associates.

- Improve communications between superintendent and field

On the jobsites

- Keep workers away from masonry walls during initial construction
- Improve scaffold cleaning before dismantling and dumping dust/debris
- Improve as-builts for underground and use of Notice of Excavation to avoid damage/disruption
- Improve trade/subcontractor involvement on site safety teams
- Improve and focus on housekeeping from the start of projects
- Improve compliance, enforce PPE requirements and include office staff
- Better ventilation on concrete pours
- Use signs/boards to keep safety in front of workers

The associates' feedback was assigned to RLI's safety subcommittees, which will use the recommendations to improve our safety program. Watch for updates on those improvements.

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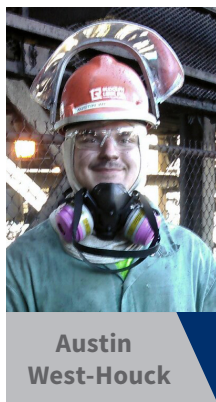
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MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE BEFORE YOU START

An apprentice's caution prevented a possible incident

If you're not 100 percent sure that you're working in safe conditions, stop working and check it out.

Austin West-Houck, a first-year carpentry apprentice, joined RLG's Plymouth office in August.



Austin West-Houck

He had been working only two weeks before his RLG safety training was put to the test.

At the Cornerstone Credit Union project in Troy, he was preparing to demo a wall when he noticed something odd.

He knew power receptacles would be spray-painted red if they were live and

green if power had been terminated.

All receptacles were painted green except one, which hadn't been painted at all. He decided to check it with a volt meter.

"I went to the foreman, and we went to an electrician who got the power terminated before I started working."

- Austin West-Houck RLI carpenter apprentice

"I was going to be working on the wall right next to it, and I wanted to be sure. I flipped the switch and the power was still on," West-Houck says.

"I went to the foreman, and we went to an

electrician who got the power terminated before I started working."

His decision prevented a potentially serious incident.

"I know we take safety seriously here," he says. "When I was going through all the safety training, I paid attention to that because this can be a life or death situation."



A NEW PARTNER SAW

Battery-run model eliminates fumes

RLI added a new battery-operated partner saw in early October.

Unlike gas-powered models, the new Milwaukee saw has no fumes - an important safety feature when RLI masons need to cut block indoors.

Other advantages:

- There is no electrical cord - just the cord from the pump can when masons need to cut wet.
- The blade is bigger than a Metabo and can cut through brick.
- At about 10 pounds, it's much lighter than gas-powered and electric saws, which can weigh 25-30 pounds.

"The masons love it," says **Don Brighton**, mason superintendent. "They like the fact that it's lightweight. And the big selling point is - when we go into First Solar, Jeep, Campbell Soup - fumes are always the thing we fight."

"When we go into a factory, we're often enclosed in Visqueen. It can be a tight area without a lot of ventilation. This makes indoor work safer for us, other contractors and our customers."

FIND IT-FIX IT

Use the program to keep safety in the conversation

One of Find It-Fix It's greatest strengths is the program's ability to get people talking about safety and finding solutions. Here are some recent submissions:

Unsafe condition: A worker noticed a hammer on the step bumper of a truck while following the truck out of the RLI Walbridge driveway.

Solution: The worker was unable to get the driver's attention until they were at the red light on Route 795, when he got the hammer and took it to the driver.

Unsafe condition: Access into the building was not safe.

Solution: Using a Bobcat, an associate scraped stone out of the parking lot and made a stone ramp.

Unsafe behavior: A worker walked behind a Gradall while it was backing up.

Solution: An associate stopped him, discussed why this behavior is unsafe and the importance of making eye contact with the operator.

Unsafe condition: An acetylene tank was not secured.

Solution: An associate secured the tank with a ratchet strap to the column.

Unsafe behavior: An associate saw another worker looking dehydrated and unwell.

Solution: He made the worker get water and cool off.

Unsafe condition: An associate noticed an odor and discovered a propane tank with a hand wand that had not been shut off. The gas trigger was upside down in the stone, allowing gas to discharge.

Solution: The associate turned the propane tank off and put the wand on top of the tank.

Unsafe behavior: An ironworker was walking the structural steel on the second floor without a retractable lanyard.

Solution: An associate stopped the ironworker, told him his lanyard was too long and made sure he got a retractable.

Unsafe condition: An associate found a cut in a Metabo cord.

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