



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Fall Awards: September 30, 2018

Spring Awards: February 28, 2019

Agency: Central Coast Water Authority

Project/Initiative Title:

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Mark Swift

Job Title/Department: Maintenance Technician

Nomination Summary

Write a brief summary of your project/initiative. Clearly state the problem/hazard recognized by the nominee and the specific reasons that they initiated corrective action.

Maintenance staff at our Water Treatment Plant were performing end suction pump maintenance on a caustic transfer pump that services our chlorine scrubber. As part of this task, the pump is shut down, but the seal flush remains on to cool and clear the stuffing box. During the seal flush, the seal failed and a



small amount of chemical (caustic soda) was released into secondary containment, and staff were exposed to the caustic release.

The release was stopped and cleaned up and reported to the Maintenance foreman. It was noted by staff that it was a good thing the seal failed after the seal flush and not during a regular pump run, for caustic would have likely been sprayed out from around the rotating pump impeller shaft.

The Maintenance Foreman contacted the pump manufacturer and inquired about purchasing a splash guard for the pump. The manufacturer informed the Supervisor that no guard existed.

Mark Swift, was given a task of fabricating a shield that would prevent the spraying of caustic soda from pump if it were to happen again.

The task criteria was to fabricate a shield that could easily be removable for inspection and repairs without having to dismantle pump or pump piping in any way. Mark's background coming from steel fabrication and welding applied his expertise and came up with a brilliant design. Mark fabricated the shield entirely from 1/8th inch 316 Stainless Steel plate and Stainless Steel cap screws.

The shield would not prevent a release of caustic, but would direct any spray downwards into the secondary containment and stop the chemical from being released outwards, out of the secondary containment.

Describe the specific actions taken to resolve the problem(s) or challenge(s). Share the best practices that made this initiative successful for the agency and its impact.

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State whether the hazard was reduced with engineering controls, introduced a new administrative or work procedure, or relied on personal protective equipment to solve the problem.

The hazard was reduced by the above engineering controls.

Describe any extraordinary circumstances that made this nominee's safety accomplishments significant. Describe whether the nominee influenced safety in the workplace, encouraged employee participation in safety efforts, obtained organizational "buy in" to implement the solution.

The employee's ability and craftsmanship for welding stainless steel enabled CCWA to utilize these skills and keep the task in house instead of sending it out for the work. It also allowed for all the chemical pumps that did not have guards, to have them outfitted with this type of device.

Describe whether the project/initiative addressed a hazard or exposure included in the JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.

Office/Field Ergonomics



- Vehicle Operations
- Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights
- Other: Hazardous Chemical Exposure

List and attach any supporting materials that you feel are important for the reviewers to gain a complete picture of the nomination. Digital photos, supporting documentation, sample forms, etc.

See attached images of the task.

Nominated by: Ron Cline

Signature: Ron Cline
(Type Name)

Date:9/30/18

General Manager: Ray Stokes
(Type Name)

Date:9/30/18

Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos to tlofinq@acwajpia.com.



The 1st image you can see the pump input shaft and seal stuffing box that is exposed.



2nd image is of the three components that make up the shield.





3rd image of the first shield in place.



4th image is with front and back shields in place that simply slide into place and locking together with an alignment pins.





The 5th picture is with the top plate installed and completed shield in place and secure.

