



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Fall Awards: September 30, 2018

Spring Awards: February 28, 2019

Agency: Mesa Water District

Project/Initiative Title: Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF) Drain Vault Safety Improvements

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Bob Mitchell, Tyler Jernigan, Stephen Hershey, Darryl Hopkins, Mark Pelka

Job Title/Department: Water Operations (Production), Engineering



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.

The Water Production team raised a concern during Mesa Water's Monthly Safety Ambassador's meeting. In particular, a reservoir drain vault at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF) presented a fall hazard. The vault is approximately 20 feet deep, and production staff use a manual key to access a valve at the bottom of the vault. Production staff stand over an uncovered vault lid, and rotate the key by walking the perimeter of the vault opening. The operators were concerned about possibly falling into the vault while performing this task.

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.

A variety of options were reviewed, including cutting and welding a small key hole in the vault. The engineering team, in conjunction with the operations team and on site safety consultants, ultimately decided a fall protection net was the best option for Mesa Water. The ideas were presented to the production staff for feedback, prior to installation. The engineering team engaged a vendor to source and install the appropriate fall protection net. The total final cost was \$1,600.

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 fall hazard for the Mesa Water Production Team was eliminated with the use of engineering controls. The hatch safety net is light weight and is easily retractable. When closed, it provides fallthrough protection, great visibility for inspections and access for limited maintenance in the work area below. The net can be easily unhooked to permit full access into the confined space.

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.

This safety accomplishment shows how that hazard recognition and communication process is working successfully at Mesa Water. Staff had an open forum to share their feedback, and the concerns promptly addressed. In addition, this project highlights the collaborative effort between operations and engineering departments to eliminate a serious workplace hazard.



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

This project addressed the JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program for slips/trips/falls - falls from heights.

- Office/Field Ergonomics
- Vehicle Operations
- Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights
- Other:

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.

Nominated by: Tracy Manning, Water Operations Manager

Signature:
(Type Name)

Date: 9/27/18

General Manager: Paul Shoenberger
(Type Name)

Date: 9/27/18

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

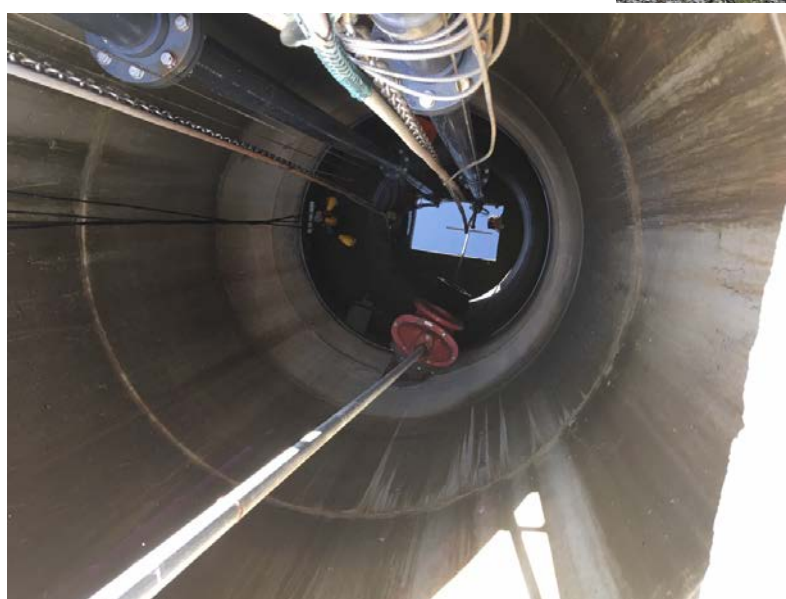


Drain Vault Safety Improvements



Potential Hazard:

There is potential for an operator to fall into the vault when using a manual key to access a valve at the bottom of the approximately 20 feet deep vault.



Drain Vault Safety Improvements



Solution:

Installation of the hatch safety net provides fallthrough protection while allowing visibility for staff to access the valve at the bottom of the vault.



Truck Bed Access Improvements



Potential Hazard:

The height of the truck beds pose the risk of ergonomic injury as staff access the bed of their large work vehicles to load and unload equipment and supplies.



Solution:

Installation of the flexible rubber and steel steps and hand holds provide staff easier access to get on and off the bed of the truck. The risk of ergonomic injury has been greatly reduced.