



# H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

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## Nomination Deadlines:

**Fall Conference Awards: September 30, 2018**

**Spring Conference Awards: March 1, 2019**

**Agency:** Merced Irrigation District

**Project/Initiative Title:** Lift Systems - ARI Herta - Mechanic Shop

## Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

**Name(s):** Kirk Trombley

**Job Title/Department:** Equipment Supervisor - Fleet

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## 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.*

In the past, fleet operations in our old shop building, we have had to use three stationary lifting systems to hoist equipment no larger than an F-350 Ford truck. Many of the duties of a mechanic required them to be on their knees and bending over for long periods of time, posing an ergonomic hazard. Mechanics had to



use "creeper stools" to access areas underneath the vehicle. The old lift systems consisted of hydraulics and had various cables that were part of the lift system that would be in the way of the work area causing a potential tripping hazard. Since this summer, we have had a new automotive facility built and have opted to not go with the same stationary lifting systems. The district purchased new portable lifting systems that would mitigate ergonomic issues and tripping hazards. It also allows the mechanics to place the lifting systems out of the way in a designated storage area at the end of the day.

*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.*

The district purchased new portable lifting systems by ARI-HERTA offers a heavy-duty lifting system that provides the safest, most reliable method of lifting and servicing vehicles. The systems are built to handle 48,000 to 320,000 lb. These systems will help mitigate ergonomic issues and tripping hazards. It also allows the mechanics to place the lifting systems out of the way in a designated storage area at the end of the day. These new system will help prevent various hazardous strains to areas of the workers body. These new lifts also can lift excavators and other heavy equipment.

*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 ergonomic hazards are being mitigated by engineering controls that the new lift systems provide to help mitigate potential musculoskeletal injuries and a reduction in tripping hazards while working in the area of the lifts.

*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.*

Training was provided by the vendor and all of our mechanics are qualified to use these lifts. The mechanics enjoy using these because of the relief they get from not being on their knees and back strain. Safety for the mechanics and the ergonomic factors involved were a big contributing factor in the decision of implementing the lifts. In addition, they purchased a transmission jack lift and a hydraulic table for moving heavy parts when working under the hoisted equipment.

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

*Ergonomics and Slips, Trips, and Falls exposures are being addressed and mitigated by engineering controls*

- 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.*

Photos

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**Nominated by:** Eric Couture

**Signature:** Eric Couture  
(Type Name)

Date:09/25/18

**General Manager:** John Sweigard  
(Type Name)

Date:09/25/18

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Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos to [tlofinq@acwajpia.com](mailto:tlofinq@acwajpia.com).





