



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Fall Awards: September 30, 2018

Spring Awards: February 28, 2019

Agency: Sweetwater Authority

Project/Initiative Title: Gopher Proof Meter Box

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Ben Brown, Adam Brugman, Jomar De Paz, Tommy Feathers,
Danny Gutierrez, David Kvederis, Aurelio Pina, James Robinson

Job Title/Department: Customer Service I, II, and Leadworkers/Administrative
Services-Customer Service

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.



Constantly having to pull old meters and then installing new meters dthereby doubling workload.

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.

During a past drought, meter staff were tasked with developing gaskets that would restrict flows to customers whose water usage was above the Authority's restriction guidelines. Due to the different pressure ranges within the district, the Authority was not able to implement these devices; however, Customer Service staff was able to find a use for them. Staff worked with the manufacturer of the Teflon gaskets to make samples of Teflon plugs in a variety of sizes. Staff tested them in the meter shop. The new Teflon plugs are used on services that range from ¾" - 2" which do not completely shut off.

Historically Customer Service staff would have to pull meters and install metal barrel locking plugs to prevent water from continuing to flow, and these curb stops were written up to be replaced at a later time. The cost of replacing the curb stop ranges from \$400 - \$1,000. These devices have been very well received by the Customer Service and Operations staff because of their ease of use and the cost savings from no longer having to pull meters and replace curb stops.

These new plugs have improved the efficiency by not having to remove meters in order to stop the flow of water. There is no longer a need to install a new meter because the old meter stays in place. When it is time to reestablish service to the customer the Teflon plug is easily removed. This has led to a reduction in the cost of replacing because all meters pulled from the ground must be replaced with a new meter and the old meter needs to be tested prior to being used out in the field again.

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.

Engineering and new work procedure

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.

It was a group collaboration, which was all their own initiative.

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:

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.



Already sent pictures seperately.

Nominated by: Sweetwater Authority

Signature: Tish Berge
(Type Name)

Date:9/20/2018

General Manager: Tish Berge
(Type Name)

Date:9/20/2018

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

