



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2022

Fall Awards: September 1, 2022

Agency: El Dorado Irrigation District

Project/Initiative Title: Hitch Step

Implementation Date: 09/30/2021

Cost to Implement: \$100.00

Staff Time Required: 5 minutes

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 25/1

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Chris Soule

Job Title/Department: Construction & Maintenance Worker II, Operations



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.

Staff was having a difficult time entering the beds of the crew trucks to get the necessary tools and materials. The step to the bumper was high which could have led to a manual handling injury or a slips, trips, falls injury entering the bed of the crew truck.

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 step receiver hitch was inserted into the tow hitch receiver of a crew truck. This step allowed staff to take a small step onto the step receiver hitch, and then enter the bed of the truck.

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.

While the hazard of entering the back of the pick-up truck has not been eliminated, the hazard has been reduced. The hazard was reduced with a substituted alternative.

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 nomination promotes employees to enter the bed of the truck to load and unload materials. When staff places materials in the back of the truck from ground level, bad body mechanics are often used because the shoulders are not in a relaxed position. Industrial ergonomics was the special emphasis program in 2021 at EID, and staff were encouraged to find ways to decrease industrial ergonomic injuries. Chris was able to help the program, and also encourage other staff members to look for ways to decrease hazards in the workplace.

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.





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Receiver Mounted Service Step

(Draw-Tite Part #: DT-6758)

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The work step is useful for gaining access to engine compartment, particularly with 4x4 pick-ups. Can be used in any 2" front or rear mounted receiver hitch.

Features

- Step features no-skid tape for safe, sure footing

- Step area measures 11" wide by 6" deep
- Use with front or rear mounted 2" receivers
- Black powder coat finish

Not Included:

- 5/8" Diameter Pin & Clip
- [HP-1020](#)

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Three points of contact.



From: Newsom, Daniel <dnewsom@eid.org>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Robin Flint <rflint@acwajpia.com>
Subject: RE: JPIA HR LaBounty Safety Award Hitch Step

Hi Robin,

I hope all is well with you, too. Below is the information you requested. If you can get the nomination in for the spring that would be great. I understand if it has to be pushed back to the fall.

The step is a Reece Hitch Product and the part # is 6758. This nomination is coming from our Wastewater Collections group that had a few safety related incidents last year. I appreciate your attempt to strengthen this nomination. The possibility of this award and JPIA's on-site involvement will really help improve our safety culture for this division.

Thanks,

Daniel Newsom, CSP
Safety and Security Officer
El Dorado Irrigation District
530-642-4186 Direct
DNewsom@EID.org

From: Robin Flint <rflint@acwajpia.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Newsom, Daniel <dnewsom@eid.org>
Subject: JPIA HR LaBounty Safety Award Hitch Step

Hi Daniel,

Thank you for submitting the hitch step as a HR LaBounty Safety Award nomination.

About three years ago the JPIA revised this program's description to encourage members with leading indicators of safety.

Below are questions or suggestions I have to strengthen this nomination.

1. Is the step fabricated or readily available on the market? [Ready available](#)
2. What is the rated capacity of the step? [Class III has a max tongue weight of 600lbs and class IV has a max tongue weight of 1000lbs.](#)
3. Can employees use three points of contact with the step? If so, a photo showing three points of contact would be great. [Yes, photos are attached.](#)

4. Did EID create or update a JHA for the step? If not, completing this ergonomic site survey worksheet for the use of the step would be a huge addition to the nomination. No, maybe this is something we can do together when we observe this crew work.

Please provide answers and complete the Ergo worksheet or add a JHA/SOP.

My goals are to help strengthen this nomination to benefit EID and JPIA member agencies.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.