



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2024

Fall Awards: September 2, 2024

Agency: Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Project/Initiative Title: Installation of articulating jib boom for Ditch Witch vacuum trailer

Implementation Date: 1/23/2023

Cost to Implement: \$2,573.00

Staff Time Required: 40hrs

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 22

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Essex Staff

Job Title/Department: Maintenance & 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.

The purpose of this safety project was to help eliminate a potential back or bodily injury (workplace ergonomics) while operating the District's vacuum trailer during field work. The risk for exposure to potential bodily injury was presented to our District's SB-198 Safety Committee for consideration. To reduce the risk of this injury exposure, it was proposed that the District purchase and install an overhead articulating support boom for the excavation suction line on the trailer. The current excavation line has no controlling support other than the operator using their body to support and manipulate the weight of the suction hose. In some instances, this excavation line can become cumbersome and unruly to control due to the high vacuum suction that the unit puts out. The new overhead boom would provide additional support for the operator while using the equipment and reduce and/or eliminate poor ergonomic movements and body strains.

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 action taken to resolve the problem was to identify the proper fix for the issue. Through research, it was noted that the manufacturer made excavation suction support booms for other models of vacuum trailers that they produced. After contacting the manufacturer about our application, an appropriate boom was agreed upon and purchased with the understanding that we would have to fabricate our own mounting bracket to the trailer. Once the boom was received, fabrication of the mounting plate and bracket began. Within a couple days our talented staff completed the fabrication of the mounting plate and support bracket. It was field tested after being installed on the trailer along with the boom.

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.

A potential back or bodily injury was reduced with engineering controls adapted to an existing piece of equipment.

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.

There is not a specific nominee for this submittal. This was recognized as potential safety hazard risk by the staff and supervisors here at HBMWD. A joint effort from multiple talented team members helped develop a solution to reduce the potential ergonomic/strain injury by fabricating a piece of equipment more ergonomically sound to operate. As always, I believe that all members of HBMWD have the "buy in" participation in all safety efforts and this project reflects that philosophy and esprit de corps.

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

I believe that this initiative did address the hazard of basic field ergonomics in the JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.

Office/Field Ergonomics

Vehicle Operations

Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights

Emergency Readiness/Wildfire Prevention

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.

See attached photos

Nominated by: Chris Merz

Date: 1/30/2024

General Manager: John Friedenbach

Date: 1/30/2024

Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos (jpg) to tlofinq@acwaipia.com.



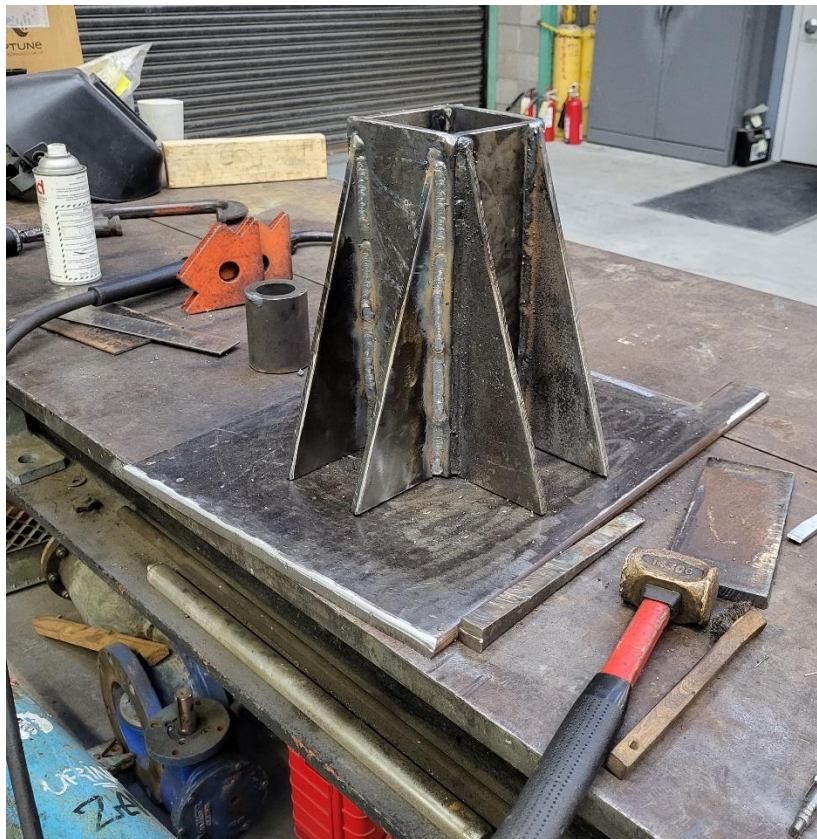
Boom Installed on trailer



Mounting bracket fabrication



Mounting bracket fabrication



Mounting bracket fabrication



Mounting bracket installed



Boom deployed during operation, notice how it supports the vacuum line above the operator.



Boom not deployed, notice all the weight of the suction line is on the operator's shoulders.