



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2021

Fall Awards: September 1, 2021

Agency: Kings River Conservation District

Project/Initiative Title: Adjustable Controls Modification

Implementation Date: 12/12/2019

Cost to Implement: \$0

Staff Time Required: 8 hrs.

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 7

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Paul Garcia

Job Title/Department: Supervisor Flood Operations and Maintenance



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.

KRCD uses two rear mount side mowers to maintain the vegetation growing along the Kings River Levee System. The original hand controls from the mfg are located too far forward and they require the operator to hunch over which creates an awkward posture.

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.

Paul Garcia modified the controls so the operator could adjust them making for an ergonomically friendly work space.

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 hazard was reduced with engineering controls that allowed the job to get done without the awkward posture.

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.

Paul saw a problem that was adversely affecting his employees and he found an engineering solution that the original mfg had overlooked. Paul's creativity and commitment to workplace safety allowed him to find a solution that made for a safer and more comfortable work environment.

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

Paul's adjustable control handle improved the field ergonomics and vehicle operations of his workers.

☒ 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.

Please see the attached photos

Nominated by: Pascoe Bowen Manager Flood O&M

Date: 12/15/2020



General Manager: Paul Peshal

Date:

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

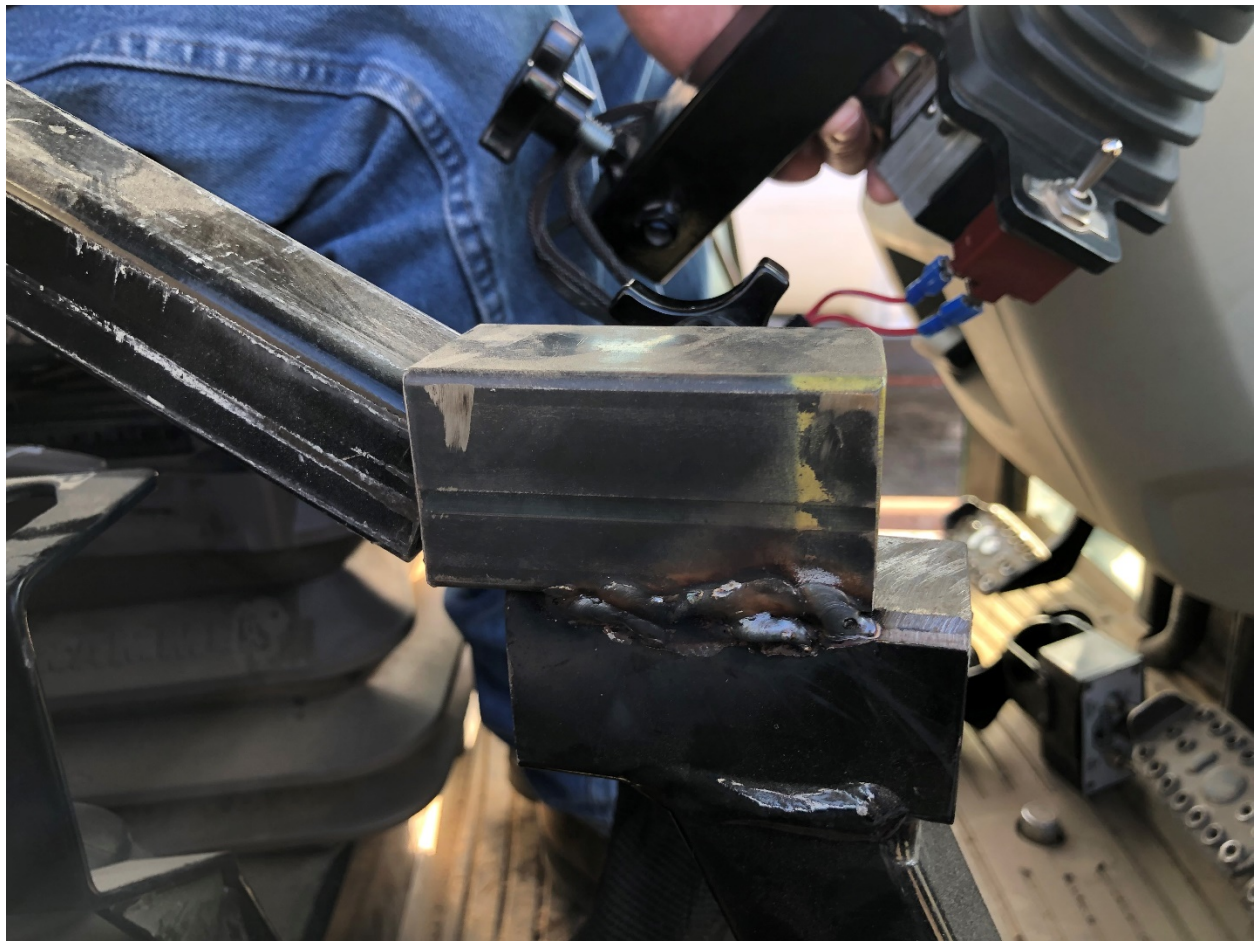


Photos of the side mower control modification





Close up of the modifications





Close up of the adjustment knob





Paul demonstrating how the control adjustment works.





Here is the award.

From: Pascoe Bowen

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:33 AM

To: Matt Bunde <mbunde@acwaipia.com>

Subject: RE: JPIA Follow-up: Tractor Mower Consultation Visit

Hi Matt,

Attached is the award that I am submitting on behalf of Paul Garcia. Please let me know if there is someone else I should be sending this award to or if I may have missed something. Thanks for letting me know about the award.

With Gratitude,

Pascoe Bowen

Kings River Conservation District

Manager Flood Operations and Maintenance

(559) 476-7713

pbowen@krcd.org

<image002.jpg>

From: Matt Bunde <mbunde@acwaipia.com>

Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:52 AM

To: Pascoe Bowen <pbowen@krcd.org>

Subject: JPIA Follow-up: Tractor Mower Consultation Visit

Pascoe,

I enjoyed meeting coming out to the district and meeting with Paul and Zach; thanks for having me. Since we were unable to meet yesterday, I wanted to give you a quick update.

First, as part of JPIA consultation visits, advisors are required to write a formal letter to the district's GM. A copy is also sent to the Board President as well as yourself.

Second, I got a chance to see both mowers and do have some comments/recommendations to consider for the rear-mount. Below is a rough draft of what will be in the letter mentioned above. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



- The rear-mount is not ideal from an ergonomic perspective. The mowing head requires the operator to observe it when in operation. This causes the operator's neck and torso to twist beyond 30 degrees for virtually the entire mowing time due to the mower head's location.
 - This awkward posture creates an ergonomic hazard for more extended periods of mowing (2 hrs or more)
 - The seat rotates approximately 30 degrees, which helps put the operator in a better viewing position and reduces twisting. However, it does not lessen the twisting below 30 degrees.
 - Additional seat rotation will provide no benefit for two reasons.
 1. The operator must be able to reach foot pedals. Additional rotation will create further ergonomic issues by creating an awkward posture in regards to the foot pedals.
 2. The cab does not have enough room for the operator to rotate any further without knees hitting portions of the cab, creating other hazards.
- The goal is to lessen the duration and/or the frequency of awkward postures. The best way is by using engineering controls, and if that's not possible, then we use administrative controls.
 - **Move Mower:** Move the mower head to within 30 degrees of viewing from the operator's seat. This engineering control would require the mower to be repositioned to a side or front mount. The second mower I viewed was a side mount and required less twisting to view the mower head, thus reducing the ergonomic risk. I understand this is likely not possible. However, it is worth considering during the next purchase.
 - **Mirrors:** Use side mirrors. This administrative control may alleviate some of the twisting to allow operators to view the head while facing more forward. This certainly will not solve the issue but may provide some relief from the constant awkward posture. Paul agreed to get a mirror and encourage the operators to use them and see if it will provide any benefit. Many times we won't know if something will work so a pilot program is good way to start, give it a few weeks and evaluate effectiveness.
 - **Viewing Camera:** Agcam and Cabcam make cameras for agricultural use that allow operators to view hard to see areas on an in-cab screen. This is similar to a mirror however, the camera can be positioned for optimal viewing. Again this would not eliminate the need to twist altogether but may provide some relief to limit the duration.
 - **Rotating Operators:** A good administrative control is to limit the amount of time an operator is in an awkward posture by limiting the duration or frequency. It is my understanding that the district has been utilizing this control.

Lastly, I was impressed with Pauls fix on the tractor controls in the rear-mount tractor. The manufacturer installed controls created a serious ergonomic hazard that would require operators to hunch over while operating. Paul fixed this by adding an



adjustable extension. JPIA's H.R. LaBounty Safety Award Program is designed for all JPIA members as a way to promote safe workplace behavior and operations practices by rewarding those employees who participate in risk-reducing actions. This would be a good item to nominate Paul for this award. [More details and the nomination form are on our website.](#)

Let me know if I can provide further assistance.

-Matt

<image001.jpg>

Mathew Bunde, CSP, SMS, CHST

ACWA JPIA

Senior Risk Control Advisor

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<Safety_Awards_Nom.docx><Photos of the side mower control modifications.docx>



From: [Matt Bunde](#)
To: [Terry Lofing](#)
Cc: [Robin Flint](#)
Subject: FW: JPIA Follow-up: Tractor Mower Consultation Visit
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:47:58 AM

Terry,

Below is the manufacturer's response to the district modifying the mower controls, in regards to Kings River CD Safety Award Nomination.

-Matt

From: Pascoe Bowen <pbowen@krcd.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Matt Bunde <mbunde@acwajpia.com>
Subject: Fwd: JPIA Follow-up: Tractor Mower Consultation Visit

Please see below
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From: TJ Honke <THonke@diamondmowers.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:03:17 AM
To: Pascoe Bowen <pbowen@krcd.org>
Subject: Re: JPIA Follow-up: Tractor Mower Consultation Visit

Pascoe:

Thank you for sending this information along. Each joystick for our 3-point mounted booms is a custom installation. As long as there is no interference with the electronics of the joystick and its installation does not come into contact with anything to restrict its operation, the location and fashion of install is completely up to you and your operators.

Thank you,

TJ Honke
Regional Sales Manager

diamondmowers.com
605.323.8233 direct
605.977.3300 office

DEMAND BRILLIANCE.

On Apr 28, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Pascoe Bowen <pbowen@krcd.org> wrote: