



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2023

Fall Awards: September 1, 2023

Agency: Moulton Niguel Water District

Project/Initiative Title: Dropped Tool Prevention

Implementation Date: June 2022

Cost to Implement: \$300

Staff Time Required: 1 Hour

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 166 / 1 Facility

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Guy Atwood

Job Title/Department: Mechanic / Support Services



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.

On occasion, our fleet mechanics are required to access the top of Vacon trucks to conduct maintenance and repair tasks. Accessing and working atop these vehicles require that we maintain a means of fall protection (harness, lanyard, anchor point) which we addressed and corrected. However, tools are also required to conduct mechanical tasks and would sometimes prevent the mechanic from maintaining three-points of contact when ascending and/or descending the vehicle. Besides being a hazard while climbing, maintaining control of the tools so they don't fall to the ground or hit someone working or walking below the mechanic was an issue. The areas mechanics are required to work do not/cannot include toeboards to aid in the prevention of tools falling from heights.

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.

Guy Atwood approached me with the idea of using a tool pouch to secure the tools while climbing or working atop the Vactor, or any other elevated work surface. We purchased 3M DBI-Sala Tool Pouches with D-Ring and 2 Retractors for the Mechanics. The tool pouch secures the tools when not in use and the built-in lanyards work to prevent the tool from falling to the ground or striking someone below the mechanic.

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.

Because the employee must make an effort to place the tools in the tool pouch and connect the tool lanyards to each tool, this is considered an administrative 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.

The mechanics can now climb onto the Vacon truck using three-points of contact. Securing the tools makes it easier for the employee to secure his lanyard to anchor points atop the Vacon, ensuring he has adequately tied-off to prevent a fall from heights. Guy encouraged employee participation because his fellow mechanics also enjoy the use of a tool pouch and tool lanyards.

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
- Emergency Readiness/Wildfire Prevention
- Other: Dropping tools from heights that can fall onto personnel below.

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.



3M DBI-SALA Tool Pouch with D-Ring and Retractors: 5 lb. wt. capacity, 3M DBI-SALA, Hook-and-Loop Closure. Purchased through Grainger for \$102.27 each.

See attached photos for toll pouch in use.

Nominated by: Len Barton

Date:2/1/2023

General Manager Designee: Len Barton

Date:2/1/2023

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

