



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: Mini Crimp

Implementation Date: 6/1/22

Cost to Implement: \$500

Staff Time Required: 4 hours to build

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 12

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Steve Vit and Customer Service Field Department

Job Title/Department: Senior Customer Service Field (CSF)



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.

To be able to fully understand the reasoning behind modifying our angle stop replacement procedure, we first need a quick overview of our procedures prior to this write up. We have two options when it comes to angle stop replacement. First option we remove the meter box to create room for our crimping tool. We crimp the line and replace the angle stop. This is our first option since only one house is affected. Our second option we utilize the street valves and isolate the main. We typically use this option when we are unable to remove the meter box. We have quite a few areas where meter boxes are in sidewalks or driveways and cannot be removed. We have found that performing a street isolation usually affects between 20-30 houses. Street isolations also require a longer time commitment, more prep work and customer notification. We would go out to the area the day before and test isolation. On some occasions we would need to clean the valve can of debris and set up traffic control (main isolation valves are in the street). Now enter March 2020, when everyone was working from home and shutting down 20-30 houses for a half day was not ideal. We went to the drawing board since there had to be a way to replace the shut off valve without shutting down entire neighborhoods. Enter Mini Crimp.

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.

We originally investigated different ways to replace angle stop valves without needing to shut the street down. We researched freeze kits and other tools that would possibly work for us. After kicking around a few ideas we came up with the idea of modifying our normal crimping tool to fit in smaller meter boxes. By removing the uncrimping function of the tool, it shortened the length of the tool from 9 to 4 inches. In order to accomplish this, we needed to remove the original bolt and substituted it with two separate bolts to crank on. We also needed to fabricate a piece that would accept the handle and bolts. By removing 5 inches we were able to replace angle stops without removing the meter box. Thus, allowing us to only affect the house we are replacing. Pictures are attached at the end of the write up.



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.

Once the new crimp tool was ready, we found that it was much easier to replace angle stops. Before we would have to send two workers out the day before we schedule the work. These workers would test isolation to make sure we would be able to complete the work the next day. If the valves did not adequately shut off the water, we would need to either bring out a valve turner or go back to the next valve. This would affect more houses and we would ask our valve crew to assist. If the isolation were successful, we would then write up door hangers and hang the street to notify the customers. We found that we were able to replace more angle stops per day than ever before. The biggest change we found with using our mini crimp was the traffic control. We no longer needed to set up traffic control to test isolation or turn valves in the street. Also, a full day of manually turning valves could lead to fatigued workers.

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:

Field ergonomics- While working in the field we are exposed to several hazards when it comes to field ergonomics. Lifting, twisting, turning, and flagging in the street are all factors when we are in the field turning street valves. The fact that we can use a ratchet to turn off the water and not a street valve makes our job that much safer in the world of field ergonomics.

Vehicle safety- While we do our best to be as safe as possible when working in the street, we know that distracted drivers are everywhere. We set up traffic control with cones and signs and utilize our vehicle warning

lights and light bars. We always wore our PPE while turning street valves. The fact that using the Mini Crimp we can eliminate some of these hazards makes our job that much safer. We can work out of one truck that can remain parked in front of the house during the entire change out process.

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 accomplishment had an immediate and significant impact on our day-to-day workflow in Customer Service Field at Moulton Niguel Water. We can replace more angle stops per day than we have in the past. We are no longer working out in the street turning valves on a regular basis. We do not need to write door hangers and send people out to hang doors or test valves. We are no longer fielding calls regarding the shutdowns and hearing why the scheduled time does not work for customers. We have since trained everyone on using the tool and it was well received from the department. When I started the JPIA Supervisor training I knew the "Mini Crimp" would be the perfect nomination for the H.R LaBounty Safety award.

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.

Pictures located on the next page



This picture shows how the old crimp tool does not fit inside the small boxes. This box was in concrete in a driveway, and we were not able to remove it. In this instance we would need to schedule a shut down and shut off the entire street to make the repair.



and the new mini crimp.

This is a comparison of the old larger crimp



This picture shows the mini crimp in action ready to crimp and replace a leaking valve. Water is on at this point.



This picture shows how the mini crimp looks when the line is fully crimped and new valve has been installed.



This picture is after the repair and with a new angle stop and meter installed.

Thank you for reading,
Bryan

Nominated by: Bryan Adams

Date: 1/5/23

General Manager: Joone Lopez

Date: 1/5/23

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

From: [Peter Kuchinsky](#)
To: [Lee Patton](#)
Cc: [Andrew Corral](#); [Terry Lofing](#)
Subject: RE: Safety Award Nomination #'s 4
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:35:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Lee:

See the attached spec sheet on the crimping tool. Crimping tools of service line work is a common practice in the water industry. See below on how it works. MNWD shortened the tool to allow more clearance and access into meter boxes. This allows meter replacement without the removal of the meter box. This is especially usable and of benefit when the meter box is in a concrete sidewalk. Copper Shut-Off / Crimping Tools are designed to shut-off and reshape Type K service line copper tube. The shut-off tool swings open to go handily around the pipe. Fine threads on the feed screw provide smooth, easy tightening using the ratchet drive handle. The support handle can be positioned in two different spots, depending on where there is clearance. The bottom open area of the shut-off tool is used to reround the copper tube after the repair to allow return of flow. Generally there is no noticeable flow difference to the customer after the tube is rerounded.

<file:///C:/Users/pkuchinsky/Downloads/CSO1R-Copper-Shut-Off-Tool-NO-PRICES-6-18.pdf>

<file:///C:/Users/pkuchinsky/Downloads/58203-Copper-Shut-Off-Tools-CSO1R-CSO2R.pdf>

I agree we need to encourage members on providing this type of information with their nominations. They should not be given additional credit for us reaching out and improving the quality of information in their nominations.

I always encourage members to reach out before submitting to discuss and review the nomination.

Thanks for your questions. Hopefully this provides you the answer you were looking for.
