



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2024

Fall Awards: September 2, 2024

Agency: Paradise Irrigation District

Project/Initiative Title: Snake Guards

Implementation Date: 6-14-24

Cost to Implement: \$231.00

Staff Time Required: 4 hrs

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 18

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Marc Beckham

Job Title/Department: Meter Shop

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.

Shortly after to Campfire the rattlesnake population exploded in Paradise. Due to the many cross-country mains in the district the probability of being bit by rattlesnakes increased. After several employees came in contact with rattlesnakes the concern was raised about safety while utility locating in dense brush.

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.

SNAKE GUARDS WERE INVESTIGATED, PURCHASED AND EMPLOYEES WERE TRAINED IN THEIR PROPER USE

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.

Hazard was reduced with the proper use of PPE (snake guards)

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.

Marc bringing this safety topic up has created an opportunity for employees to work with supervisors to come up with a safety solution, and has helped to create an environment with more open conversations about safety.

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:

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.

Nominated by:

William Baker

Date:

12/12/2024

General Manager:

Kevin Phillips

Date:

12/12/2024

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

Paradise Irrigation District

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Snake Guards

Effective Date: 6/14/24

Approved By: Mickey Rich

Purpose

To provide guidelines for the optional use, care, and maintenance of snake guards to enhance employee safety during field operations in areas where snakes may pose a hazard.

Scope

This procedure applies to all employees and contractors performing duties in areas where encounters with snakes are possible, including meter reading, pipeline maintenance, and other outdoor activities.

Policy

The Paradise Irrigation District prioritizes employee safety and encourages the use of snake guards in areas with tall grass or other conditions where employees feel unsafe due to the potential presence of snakes. While the use of snake guards is not mandatory, employees are advised to exercise caution and wear snake guards when deemed necessary for their safety.

Procedure

1. Issuance and Assignment of Snake Guards

1.1 Snake guards will be provided by the District and made available to employees for optional use.

1.2 Supervisors will maintain an inventory log of available snake guards.

2. Pre-Use Inspection

2.1 Employees choosing to use snake guards must inspect them before each use.

- Look for cracks, tears, or other damage.
- Check that straps and buckles are secure and functional.

2.2 Report any damage to a supervisor immediately and request a replacement if necessary.

3. Optional Use Guidelines

3.1 Employees may wear snake guards when:

- Working in areas with tall grass, brush, or other snake-prone conditions.
- Feeling unsafe or concerned about the potential presence of snakes.

3.2 Supervisors should encourage the use of snake guards in high-risk areas but respect the employee's decision.

4. Maintenance and Storage

4.1 Clean snake guards after use with a damp cloth to remove dirt and debris.

4.2 Store snake guards in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight.

4.3 Do not modify or alter snake guards in any way.

5. Training

5.1 All employees will receive training on:

- Identifying snake-prone areas.
- Proper donning, use, and care of snake guards.
- Snake awareness and avoidance techniques.

5.2 Training will be documented and maintained in employee records.

6. Reporting Incidents

6.1 Employees encountering snakes during work must report the incident to their supervisor immediately.

6.2 If a snake bite occurs, follow the District's Emergency Response Plan and seek medical attention immediately.

Responsibilities

- Employees: Decide whether to wear snake guards based on conditions, maintain issued equipment, and report issues to supervisors.
- Supervisors: Ensure employees have access to snake guards and are aware of this policy.
- Safety Officer: Conduct training, maintain records, and update the policy as needed.

Compliance

Employees are encouraged to use snake guards when working in high-risk areas but are not required to do so. Non-compliance with reporting procedures or equipment care may result in corrective action.