

A large, dynamic splash of blue water, with many droplets and bubbles, creating a sense of movement and freshness. It occupies the upper half of the page, behind the title text.

2026 ACWA JPIA H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards

**Recognizing JPIA water industry employees who
implement significant safety program improvements.**

NOMINATION DEADLINES:

Spring Awards: FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Fall Awards: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

2026 ACWA JPIA H.R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARDS

Program Overview

The H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Program recognizes ACWA JPIA water industry employees who implement significant safety improvements to prevent occupational injuries/illness. Winners will receive special recognition during the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors Meetings held in November and May of each year. The names of all award recipients are published in the ACWA JPIA Membership Summit packet. Selected award nominations will be posted on the JPIA's website.

Criteria

The program is open to all JPIA members who participate in the Workers' Compensation, Liability, and/or Property Programs. The JPIA safety award program recognizes results-oriented activities that increase employees' safety program participation, and ensure continuous improvement of the agency's safety program. Examples of employee nominations include but are not limited to:

- Identify new methods/equipment to reduce manual material handling exposures, especially methods based on eliminating or reducing the hazard.
 - Conduct proactive ergonomic evaluations after completion of The Back School CEAS program or comparable program.
 - Participate in an annual review of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program, including a recommended action plan for improvements.
 - Conduct a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for a specific operation or project and deliver a safety training on the JSA to co-workers.
 - Develop a Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for a specific operation or project, and conduct a safety training for co-workers on the SOP.
 - Participate in accident investigations or near-miss events that resulted in the implementation of corrective actions.
 - Participate in the hazard inspection program using a customized inspection form and document corrective action for their work area.
 - Develop/update a hazard inspection program for job sites in the field.
 - Participate in the annual review of confined space entry permits, resulting in corrective actions to improve the program.
 - Identify procedures to eliminate the need to enter a confined space.
 - Participate in the review of a project-specific Contractor Safety Program.
 - Participate in emergency planning, response and recovery efforts, including recommended actions for improvement.
- Nominations that are not appropriate for this Program:**
- Achieving injury/illness rate reduction or "zero" injuries. JPIA follows best practices and does not provide incentives for programs that may discourage workers from reporting occupational injuries.
 - Activities that are not results-oriented, i.e. following basic safety rules, policies, or procedures; **OR** developing written safety programs, policies, and procedures to meet basic regulatory requirements.
Exception: Employee participation in an annual review of a required written program that results in corrective actions.
 - Nominations related to "conditions of employment", e.g. wearing or providing required PPE, or providing Safety Data Sheets.
 - Nominations not directly related to the employee safety program and safety improvements in the agency operations or equipment, e.g. administrative procedures to track district property.
 - Nominations that may create new safety hazards for other employees or the public.
 - Equipment modifications performed without manufacturer approval, and that affect the warranty.
 - Equipment fabricated in-house where a readily available commercial product that meets regulatory requirements is available, e.g. eyewash stations.
Exception: Fabricated items such as guardrails or railings that are in compliance with Cal/OSHA standards.
- Members are encouraged to contact their Risk Advisor **prior** to submitting a fabrication nomination.
- Nominations for fabricated equipment should be reviewed by a professional engineer **prior** to submission.

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Nominations

All nominations must be received by the following deadlines:

Spring Awards—February 2, 2026
Fall Awards—September 1, 2026

- Nominations may be for an individual employee, a work group, safety committee members, or for an agency-wide effort.
- Each nomination must include the nomination form available on the JPIA's website, supporting documentation, and digital photos.
- Nominations with insufficient documentation will be returned with a request for the necessary information. The revised packet must be re-submitted before the deadline to be considered. Revised packets received after the deadline will be included in the next round of awards, which occur every six months.

Notifications

- A confirmation email will be sent within five business days of your submission.
- A second email will be sent indicating whether the nomination meets the criteria and contains complete documentation.

Selection Process

JPIA Risk Management will review all completed nomination forms and the supporting documentation that is received by the deadline. Nominations will be evaluated based on the Best Practices scoring criteria. The Chief Executive Officer may approve monetary awards.

Judging Criteria

The criteria for the awards are developed and reviewed regularly by JPIA Risk Management and the JPIA Risk Management Committee. The evaluation criteria for the nomination is based on:

- Nomination clearly documents the hazard or exposure, and the controls to reduce or eliminate the hazard.
- Nomination documents how safety programs or practices are exceptional (above and beyond) in promoting employee participation.
- Nomination addressed a JPIA Best Practice in the Commitment to Excellence Program.
- Nomination is applicable to a broad range of JPIA members at a reasonable cost.
- Nomination demonstrates that efforts were made to eliminate, substitute, or engineer out the hazard before applying administrative controls or using PPE (Hierarchy of Controls).

Contact Terry Lofing at tlofing@acwajpia.com for questions or additional information.