



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2023

Fall Awards: September 1, 2023

Agency: Sacramento Suburban Water District

Project/Initiative Title: Hydrant Repair Station

Implementation Date: 1/15/2022

Cost to Implement: \$90

Staff Time Required: 8 Hours

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 2

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): Joe Crockett

Job Title/Department: Distribution Foreman



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.

Preventative Maintenance (PM) truck had been tasked with performing PM and damage repairs on fire hydrants in the field. The PM on hydrants along with regular damage caused by vehicle accidents provides a steady flow of work for repairs.

Performing repairs and maintenance on hydrants in the field creates consistent, unsafe exposure to traffic. In addition, the location and positioning of hydrants in the field result in the Operator working on hydrants in positions and settings that are at risk of ergonomic injury.

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.

Initially, Joe developed a process to keep the crews out of the roadway by having them bring new hydrants with breakaway kits ready to install. This way if the actual hydrant was damaged then crews would be able to install a new hydrant, put it back into service for fire protection, and work on the hydrant back at the yard in a safe location.

At the Corporation yard, Joe configured a hydrant repair station by attaching a 24" hydrant bury extension to a check valve in the ground. The hydrant requiring PM or repair is attached to the extension, raising the hydrant to the operator's working power zone. This provided better leverage when wrenching and less stooping and bending. Additionally, the District needed a process to verify that the repairs made were successful. A hydrant pattern blind flange was installed between the check and the extension. Also installed was a ¾" saddle with a hose bib on the 24" extension. Once the hydrant repairs have been made the Operator can crack open one of the top ports and charge the hydrant through the hose bib. The hydrant is then shut down and checked for leaks, and also ensure each port operates correctly.

The final step in the process after performing PM or making repairs to a hydrant is to spray paint it with white primer, identifying it as a repaired hydrant that is ready to be put back into service.

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 risks associated with the hydrant PM and repair process were reduced by an improved work procedure. It changed this type of work from the field to a set workstation at the corporation yard reducing ergonomic exposures and eliminating in-traffic exposures.

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.

In the past three years, all of the District's OSHA recordable injuries have been ergonomic; related to awkward position and overexertion. The hydrant repair station has eliminated a significant amount of ergonomic risk for Operators working with hydrant PM and repair. The District is very supportive on any improvement that will reduce exposure to injuries. Input to Joe from several Operators lead to the final design being optimal.

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

The hydrant repair station significantly reduced ergonomic risks performing PM and repairs. Additionally, it removed operators from previous exposures working in traffic areas, another significant safety risk.



While the business benefit of this improved process is the turnaround time to get damaged fire hydrants back in service, further significant safety and financial benefits include:

- Minimize exposure to traffic, and the risks associated.
- Hydrant is now at an ergonomic position congruent with safe work practices.
- Minimize the need to purchase extra inventory, i.e. fire hydrants.
- Enables the opportunity to test and ensure hydrant works properly before installing in the field.
- Allows for an area to train employees in repairs.

Office/Field Ergonomics

Vehicle Operations

Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights

Emergency Readiness/Wildfire Prevention

Other: Minimize exposure to traffic, and the associated risks

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.

Photos of hydrant repair station, repaired hydrant and employees performing repairs

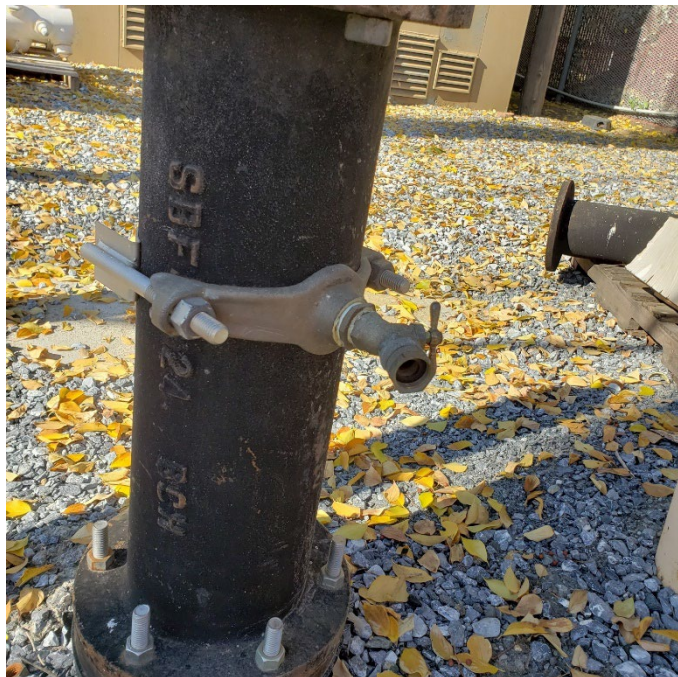
Nominated by: Hector Segoviano

Date: 11/16/2022

General Manager:

Date: 1/25/2023

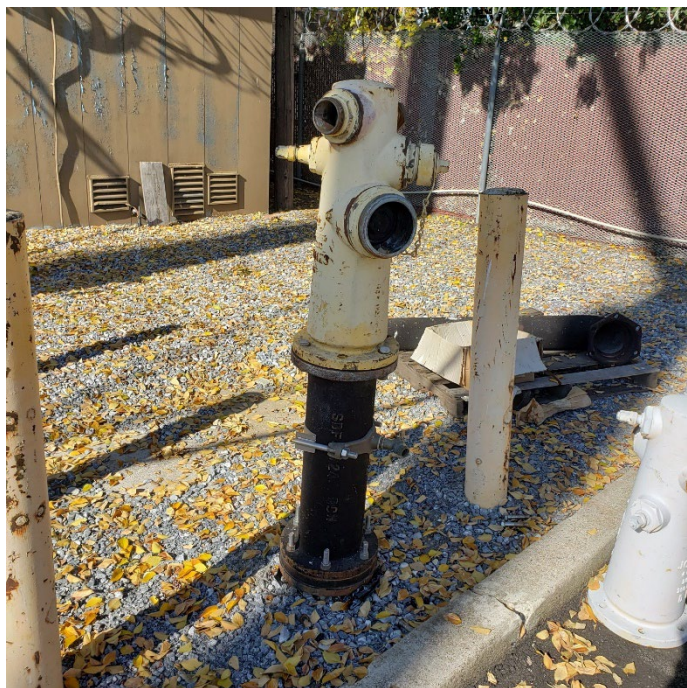
Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos (jpg) to tlofing@acwajpia.com.



Fixture 1



Fixture 3



Fixture 2



Repair #1



Repair #2



Repair #3



Repair #4