



H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

Nomination Deadlines:

Spring Awards: February 1, 2020

Fall Awards: September 1, 2020

Agency: Santa Fe Irrigation District

Project/Initiative Title: Confined Space Flow Meter Relocations

Implementation Date: Completed August 2020

Cost to Implement: \$5600

Staff Time Required: 8 weeks

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 6

Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:

Name(s): James Gingrich

Jason Nunez

Job Title/Department: Electricians/ Maintenance Department



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.

Several of the critical flow meters that monitor various processes in the treatment plant are located in vaults which require full permitted confined space entry and fall protection measures. These flow meters are verified or calibrated on a semi annual basis and flushed out monthly resulting in multiple confined space entries for the maintenance staff. The maintenance staff addresses 9 meters in 7 separate vaults on a routine basis. The process of maintaining the flow meters requires minimal time however in order to do it safely, staff must be confined space trained and follow all confined space entry requirements which include atmospheric monitoring, ventilation, two staff members, fall protection and documentation. The time associated with preparing for entry and completing the documentation is often more time than the maintenance itself.

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.

Staff identified the option to install the flow meters on the railing outside of the vaults and eliminate the need to enter the vaults to perform maintenance on the meters. This change in operation has allowed the maintenance staff to perform maintenance on the meters without entering the vaults and therefore reduce the time and risk associated with performing routine maintenance. Jim and Jason worked together entering the confined spaces to install stainless tubing from the pipe mains up the wall of the vaults to an insulated meter box installed on the safety railing of the vault. Initially, to get this installed they had to perform all confined space and fall protection protocols to perform the work in each vault. After completion of each vault, the entire staff now has access to the flow meter without needing to be confined space trained, performing the confined space entry and fall protection measures, or even entering the vaults at all.

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 hazards associated with confined space entries and fall hazards have been reduced with engineering controls.

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.

Entry into the vaults to perform maintenance on the flow meters has been a standard practice for years, and it took Jim and Jason to identify the possibility of eliminating this need by installing engineering controls that would eliminate the need for entry when performing maintenance on the flow meters. This change in practice was received well by the rest of the maintenance staff and added some focus to the safety protocols that are in use at our facility. Several of the vaults where flow meters are located are in excess of 20ft deep, posing a fall hazard as well as atmospheric hazards.

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

This project addressed a fall hazard and confined space hazard

Office/Field Ergonomics

Vehicle Operations



Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights

Other: Confined Space Entry

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: Dave Harris

Date:8-24-20

General Manager: Al Lau

Date:8-26-20

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



Flowmeter is 10-12 feet down in a confined space. Calibration and flushing maintenance must be done in this location.





Confined space vault

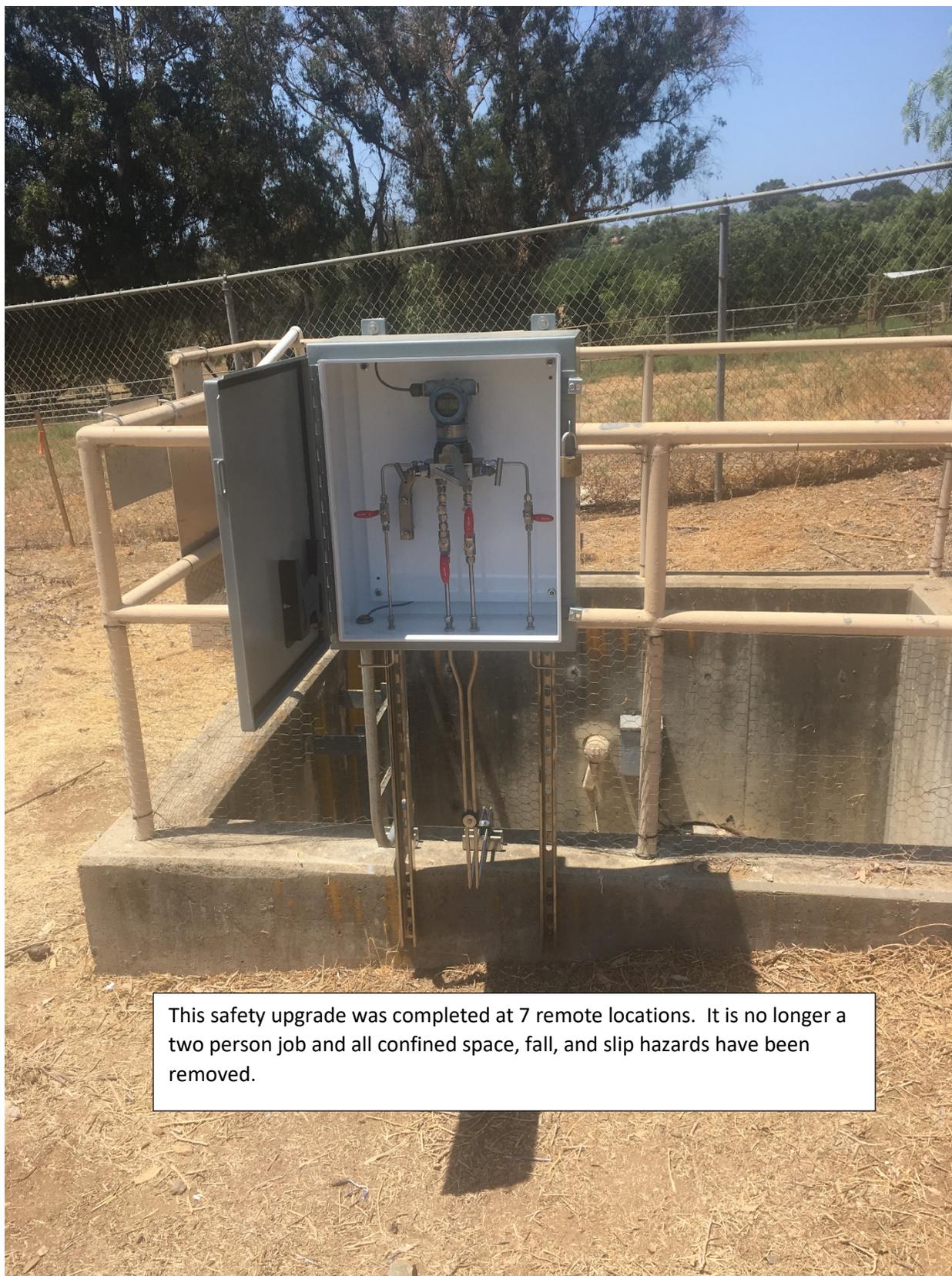
New above ground location, safe and out of the confined space.

Old location



New location above ground in a locked enclosure. Now a one person job.

Old location, in deep confined space vault with standing water



This safety upgrade was completed at 7 remote locations. It is no longer a two person job and all confined space, fall, and slip hazards have been removed.