



# H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

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## **Nomination Deadlines:**

**Spring Awards: February 1, 2023**

**Fall Awards: September 1, 2023**

**Agency:** Vista Irrigation District

**Project/Initiative Title:** Valve Maintenance Truck – Flatbed build

Implementation Date: 1/23/2023

Cost to Implement: Approx. \$3,000 added cost to build total of \$31,402.66

Staff Time Required: 4 hours

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 10

## **Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:**

Name(s): Oscar Chavez | Luis Ramos | Steve Tester

Job Title/Department: Equipment Operator | Utility Worker | Sr. Equipment  
Mechanic / Field Services (all).

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## 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.*

The District was replacing its valve exercising truck that was custom-built in 2005. One of the issues with the existing valve exercising truck was available storage for valve lids on the vehicle. Due to the amount of space the valve exercising equipment (automated valve operator and hydro-vac system) occupied on the truck bed, there was limited space for valve lids, and they had to be stowed amongst the valve exercise equipment or under the flatbed in bins. Access to the valve lids, which weigh 19 pounds each, required climbing in the truck bed or stooping/bending to access the bins where they were located.

*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.*

Equipment Operator Oscar Chavez and Utility Worker Luis Ramos, who both have worked on the valve truck for many years, worked with Senior Equipment Mechanic Steve Tester to identify and address some of the shortcomings of the older valve truck. As no commercially made bed systems were found that addressed the valve lid storage issue, Oscar, Luis and Steve collaborated on a design for the flatbed that would make the valve lids easier to access. The design located the valve lid bins on top of the flatbed (waist high) in a cage system that was secured with small stake gates that can be easily removed to access the valve lids without having to stoop/bend or climb into the truck bed. A specification was developed and request for proposal was issued for a custom flatbed body.

*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.*

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.*

NA

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

The hazards of slip/trip/falls and field ergonomics were greatly reduced with engineering controls.

- 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.*

Photos are included with nomination form.



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**Nominated by:** Frank Wolinski

**Date:** 8/17/2023

**General Manager:** Brett Hodgkiss

**Date:** 8/18/2023

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







