



# H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

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## Nomination Deadlines:

**Spring Awards: February 1, 2022**

**Fall Awards: September 1, 2022**

**Agency: YORBA LINDA WATER DISTRICT**

**Project/Initiative Title: Exhaust Stack Extension**

Implementation Date: 8/10/2022

Cost to Implement: less than \$50.00 per site

Staff Time Required: 3 hours

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 8

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

Name(s): Steve Clayton and Miguel Rameriez

Job Title/Department: Senior Plant Operator, Plant Operator I

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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.*

At times during the process of adding salt to brine tanks it has led to the need to capture any salt that would escape through the brine tank exhaust system. The hazard identified was the need to use a ladder to climb and attach a filter bag to the exhaust vent stack. The intention is to capture any salt being released through the exhaust vent stack, thus eliminating a slip hazards created from the salt being on walking surfaces. In addition to the climbing of a ladder, awkward body postures also required the user of the ladder to position and secure the filter bag while working from an elevated height. The reason the corrective action has been taken will be to reduce any potential slip/trip/fall hazards at the district. Steve and Miguel will apply this idea throughout district site(s) containing a brine tank set-up similar to the one in the photos. Another added benefit of the improvement will be removing the need to set-up another piece of hazard introducing piece equipment to perform a job function.

*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.*

The specific actions taken to eliminate this fall hazard was to remove old cap, prep pipe surface, glue a 8" PVC coupling and 2'-6" foot piece of 8" PVC pipe extending the exhaust vent stack. The pipe is extended to a height where a ladder is no longer needed to perform the operation. Currently the filter bag can be installed, positioned and secured from the ground. Anytime staff can avoid bringing out another piece of hazard introducing piece of equipment (ladder), it is welcomed by staff.

*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.*

This fall hazard from a ladder has now been eliminated using engineering controls. This concept is being applied to all sites that contain brine tanks. In the "Hierarchy of Controls" this is the best solution for the operation because the fall hazard no longer exists and no additional lesser hazards were created as a result. By removing the need for a ladder, the need for a "spotter" is no longer required to secure the ladder from tipping over or unexpected movement.

*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.*

The reason why this is significant was due to the simplicity of the idea to improve and the eliminate a serious hazard which could lead to injury or death if a fall were to occur. As stated earlier, "buy-in" is essentially automatic because a ladder is no longer needed. This means less equipment and manpower to set-up to perform the operation.

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

The improvement of extending the exhaust vent stack addressed two of the four hazards included in the ACWA/JPIA "Commitment to Excellence Program" at three of the district's chlorine injection sites. From an ergonomics stand point the exhaust vent stack extension reduces the amount of awkward postures required to work from a ladder. More importantly, falls are the number one cause of construction-worker fatalities, accounting for one-third of all on-the-job deaths in the industry. In 2019, there were 401 fall fatalities out of 1,102 total fatalities in construction (BLS data). Falls are a hazard found in many work settings, but construction has the most fatal falls out of all industries and represents 51% of all falls nationally.\* (\*CDC StopFalls Campaign)

- Office/Field Ergonomics
- Vehicle Operations
- Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights
- 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.*

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**Nominated by:** Jeremy Smith

**Date:** 8/24/2022

Operations Manager for:  
General Manager:

*John M. DeCurcio*

**Date:** 8/24/2022

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







