

H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



Agency: Vista Irrigation District

Employees Nominated: Gary Arrasmith & Jim Allen

Job Classification: Senior Facilities Worker & Senior System Controls Operator

Reason for Nomination: Making Cla-Val Maintenance a Safer Process

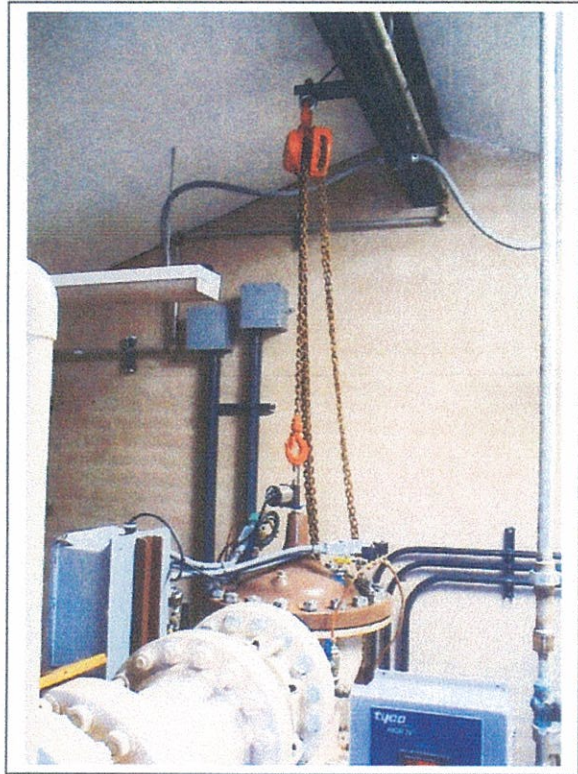
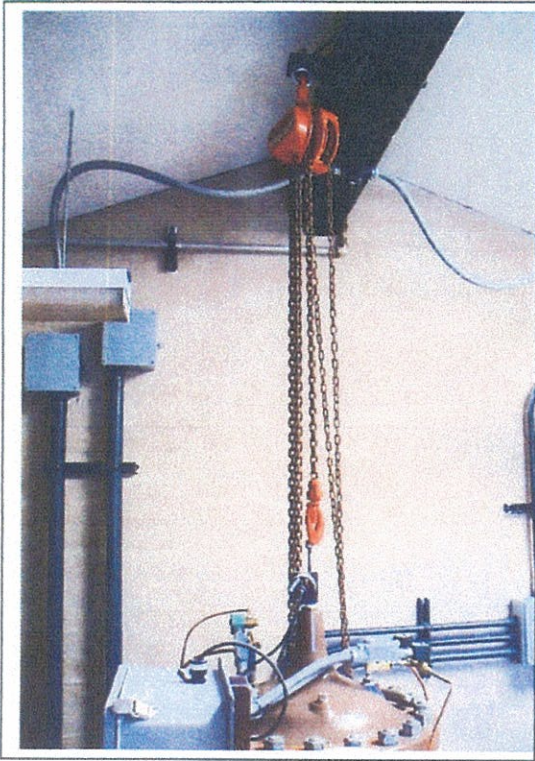
While performing Cla-Val automatic control valve maintenance at Plant #9, the employees realized that they were working in a prolonged, awkward lifting posture. They also commented to each other about the potential pinch hazard associated with performing this task.

Background:

In order to properly perform this type of maintenance the Cla-Val cover must be removed. This process requires the employees to lift the 195 lb. cover of the Cla-Val above chest and shoulder level and then twist to the side in an effort to reposition the cover and allow them to perform the necessary work. This process also requires concentrated effort to avoid pinching ones fingers or causing muscle strains to the employees performing the maintenance. Despite having no injury history on this process, Gary and Jim felt it was just a matter of time before an employee suffered an injury while performing this task.

Together they formulated a solution whereby they made use of an existing 12 x 6 beam in the plant and installed a rated hook to the overhead beam and a small chain hoist to allow them to remove the Cla-Val cover as well as making the task quicker to complete. From this point forward, this routine maintenance process will employ the use of a mechanical lift device and be a much safer process for VID crews. This teamwork effort will reduce potential injury and promote safe work practice. Cost to implement the repair was sixteen dollars for an eyehook (rated for 5,000 pounds) and one hour labor to install the hook. The hoist is portable and used at many other locations for tasks requiring the assistance of a mechanical lift.

Attached are design photos of the hoist and bracket which has received excellent feedback from the operators who use the hoist on a regular basis to perform routine operations. It has also received kudos from the Safety Committee and Department for being safety conscious.



Nominated by: Sherry Thorpe, Safety and Risk Manager

Signature: *Sherry Thorpe*

Date: 9/10/12

General Manager: *Rafael*

Date: 9/17/12

Please attach supporting documents and/or digital photos and email to:

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