

# H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



**Agency:** Vista Irrigation District

**Employee Nominated:** Kris Sliffe

**Job Classification:** Meter Maintenance Technician

**Reason for Nomination:** Adjustable Shut-Off Tool

**Background:**

When Kris was placed on modified duty due to bilateral elbow tendinitis, he took it upon himself to find a way to prevent the injury from happening to anyone else. His mission was to create a tool that would alleviate the stress that shutting off valves and meters places on the elbow joints. He realized that the process of shutting off valves and meters on a continuous basis was placing undue strain on the joints and he knew there had to be a better way.

One day while working on a meter that was set in a confined space, he and another coworker were thinking of ways to reach the meter without causing back strain or any additional irritation to his elbows. In the past, he had encountered numerous meter boxes and valves that were set in awkward positions or were in hard to reach locations. Unfortunately, attempting to turn these valves had caused a countless number of bloody knuckles and lower back pain from the constant wrenching and bending. This is when the idea of an adjustable shut-off tool was born. Kris designed and constructed a tool that telescoped so he no longer would have to bend over walls, bushes or other structures to turn the key in a meter box. He could now place the tool on the key standing in an upright neutral posture.

Kris also indicated that due to his job classification as a Meter Maintenance Technician, he spends the majority of his time maintaining and switching out meters. Kris has received requests for additional shut-off tools for other crews that need them during the course of their workday. Kris took this project upon himself to make his work environment safer and to keep from reinjuring his elbows; he was able to work independently and design a tool that will provide years of safer work practices for all employees. The District is very proud of his accomplishment and initiative.

#50

Nominated by: Sherry Thorpe, Safety and Risk Manager

Signature: Sherry Thorpe

Date: 10/7/13

General Manager: Allen Boone for Rayboox

Date: 10/8/13

