

# H. R. LABOUNTY SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



**ERGO-FALLS**

Agency: Sweetwater Authority

Employee Nominated:

Name: Mike Wallace

Job Classification: Engineering Manager

**Reason for Nomination:** Previously maintenance of the Loveland Dam valve house required staff to use the staircase that had been deemed not to meet minimum safety standards. To address this hazard, fall protection equipment was provided to employees. The prior procedure to access the valve house required employees to wear a fall protection harness and hook up to a steel cable that runs the length of the staircase, in case the stairs failed. While this would prevent the employee from falling to the ground, the employee would be left hanging far above the ground until rescue arrived. This meant the employee would be exposed to the high potential for suspension trauma.

A capitol project was developed to replace the stairs, but until it is funded and completed a temporary solution was identified by staff to address the suspension trauma risk. Mike researched and found a self-rescue harness that would allow employees to slowly lower themselves to the ground. Mike then suggested the purchase of self-rescuing harnesses. With these new harnesses employees now can lower themselves to the ground easily, and avoid the risk of suspension trauma.

Nominated by: Sweetwater Authority

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

General Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*JAMES L. SMYTH*  
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Please attach supporting documents and/or digital photos and email to:

