

North American Stainless

Award: Safety
Category: Workplace Improvement

Workplace Safety Improvement

Challenge

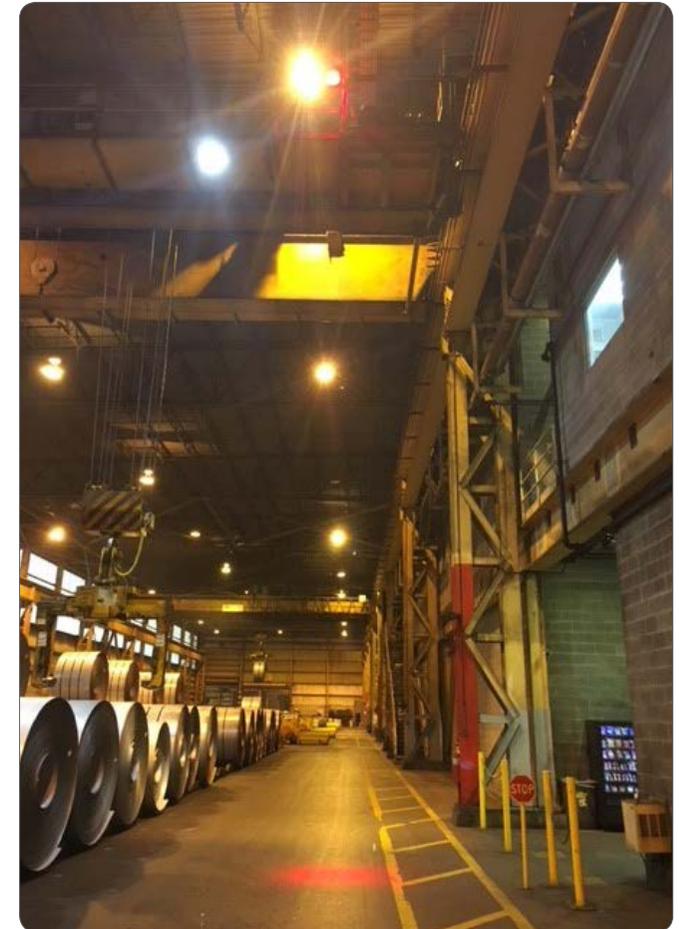
Bring awareness to overhead crane movement.

Action

North American Stainless has several overhead cranes throughout our facility. All of our cranes are equipped with sirens and our operators are trained to sound the siren when they move their crane. The problem was with so many noises in a manufacturing area, employees would get complacent with the siren noise. We had a near miss in our Melt Shop a couple of years ago with a crane so this caused us to look into a better way to identify crane movements. We made the decision to add bright red lights on all of our cranes. These red lights point down towards the floor so that anybody in the area can see where the crane is at. We added the red light crane identification to our Contractor training also so that they are aware to look for the red light on the floor when out in the facility.

Outcome

Adding the red light has greatly reduced near misses in our Melt Shop and other areas throughout the facility. We've had visitors in and they have said that they would like to take our idea and implement it in their facilities.



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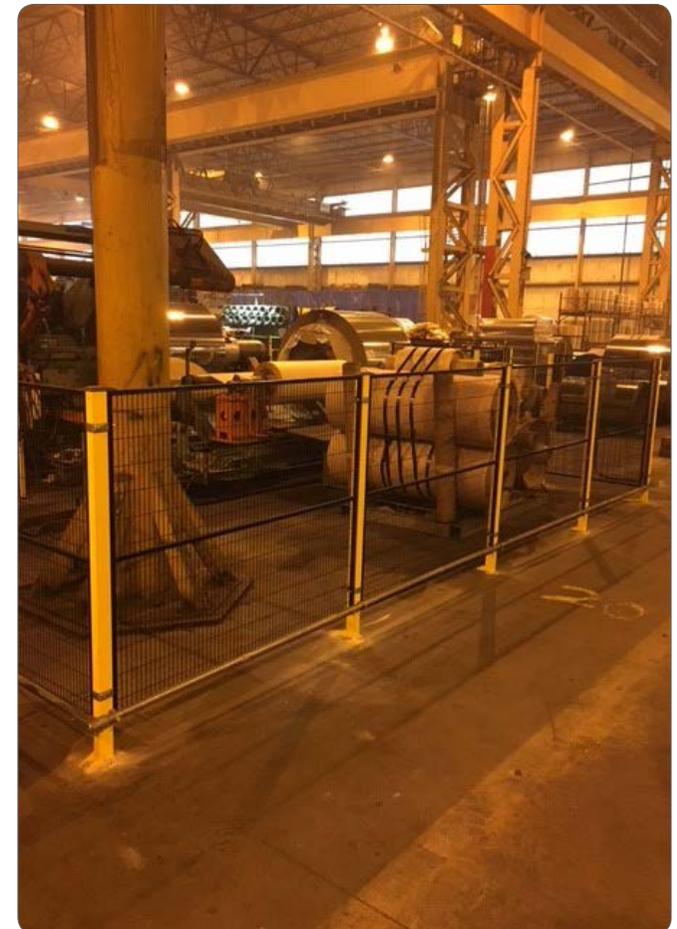
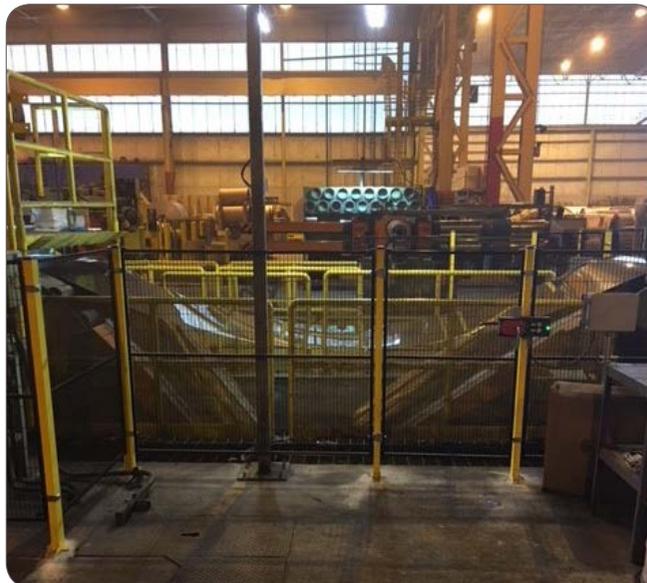
North American Stainless (NAS) has a lot of older equipment and a challenge for us has been able to find ways to get older equipment guarded with 2018 guarding. Two of our Slitters were installed back in the 1990's but we need to comply with 2018 guarding standards.

Action

Guarding – when we started up our new slitter line in 2017 we took that blueprint and our Electrical Maintenance department found a way to wire our old slitter lines with new interlocks and we placed several hard guards onto the line. With older technology on the line it was difficult to get everything to work but we were eventually able to use a combination of hard guarding, SIC lights, and interlock gates to protect employees from entering the line.

Outcome

At first some employees that have been here for a while didn't feel they would be able to run production with the new guarding. Now employees are used to the new guarding and even point out areas where we can make improvements.



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We were faced with the issue of too much fork lift and pedestrian traffic throughout the mill and not enough designated walk ways.

Action

Every Mill Manager was tasked to find a way to separate as much fork lift traffic from pedestrian traffic as possible. In addition, they needed to find areas where we could paint designated walkways. The other challenge was finding a way to ensure all pedestrians knew whether or not there was a need to look out for crane or fork lift movements. Safety came up with designated paint colours for walk ways that would inform pedestrians if the area was safe or caution was needed when walking in the area.

Outcome

We have found pedestrians have a better understanding of where it is safe to walk and they understand where to watch out for potential hazardous. The signs and designated walk ways also work very well for visitors.

