

## Hard Hat Safety Awards – Advanced American Construction

By: Melody Finnemore in 2019 Hard Hat Safety Awards, News November 14, 2019 7:59 am



While performing an outfall pipe project, one of AAC's workers fell into the water. When a crew member first noticed him, he was floating unconscious by only his life jacket about 100 feet downstream of the crane barge. The crew quickly engaged its "man overboard recovery protocol."

When they pulled the worker out of the water, he was blue and not breathing. They immediately started CPR and called 911 and the U.S. Coast Guard. By the time they transported him on the mile boat ride to the paramedics' emergency access point, he was breathing on his own.



"Many things were in our favor that workday, but the main reason this man was able to walk out of the hospital that next Monday and continue to perform his craft to this day was solely because we had a safety plan, we briefed about that plan daily, and when we needed it the most we carried out that plan and it worked flawlessly," said Kyle Izatt, AAC operations manager and project manager during the incident.

Because of the treacherous waters and limited access involved, the project team continually briefed about emergency access points and the importance of always wearing a life jacket zipped and clipped in case of a fall.

Led by Safety Manager Kevin Wheatcroft, AAC fosters a culture of safety through a collaborative process. At the start of each shift, crew and subcontractors talk about the work they are doing and the risks involved during AAC daily briefings. If conditions change, a re-brief is held.

"The majority of the work we perform is on the water in very adverse elements with changing conditions and weather. The work is high risk and typically very complex," Izatt said. "It took years and many revisions to pin down this daily briefing platform that we employ."

— Melody Finnemore

