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VMAC Welcomes Sandra Amador, Continuous Improvement Director

VMAC is welcoming Sandra Amador to the position of Continuous Improvement Director, providing leadership, guidance, coaching, and project management support. With a focus on quality assurance, implementing LEAN methodologies, and fostering positive cultural transformation throughout the organization, the Director of Continuous Improvement is responsible for leading VMAC's Quality Assurance team.

This promotion recognizes Sandra for her significant contributions to VMAC's Quality Management System, LEAN journey, and process improvements, including maintenance of ISO 9001 compliance, and recertification to the latest ISO 9001-2015 standard.

"Sandra's experience and proven record of continuous organizational improvement and quality assurance focus makes her the ideal fit for this role", says Tod Gilbert, VMAC's Executive Vice President. "We're pleased to have Sandra accept this new position, and I can't wait to see the positive impact she will make in VMAC's journey for continuous improvement."

Sandra has an impressive and varied background as a Quality Manager, Certified Quality Auditor, Chemical Engineer, Project Manager, and Process Improvement leader, with close to 20 years of experience.

www.vmacair.com/ncp



Mack Trucks Employees Participate in Rolling Thunder-Ride for Freedom



Mack Trucks employees again will participate in the Rolling Thunder – Ride for Freedom rally Memorial Day weekend to pay tribute to America's fallen military. This year, Mack's Ride for Freedom truck is Jack Mack, a custom-built one-of-a-kind mega-crew cab named after John "Jack" M. Mack, one of the founders of Mack Trucks. The 30th annual rally will take place in Washington, D.C. Mack Lehigh Valley Operations and Mack Customer Center employees will travel from Pennsylvania by truck and motorcycle to Hagerstown, Maryland for a special memorial ceremony at Mack's powertrain facility. Hagerstown employees will then join their colleagues following the ceremony as they continue to Washington, D.C. to join thousands of other Ride for Freedom participants.

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Mowery Welcomes Derek Dilks

Mowery, an industry-leading construction company based in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the addition of Derek Dilks of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania to their growing team. In his new role, Dilks will serve as Mowery's director of special projects. His primary responsibility will be to oversee and continue to grow the company's smaller, short-duration projects and tenant fit-out services which prepare the interior spaces of a new building for occupation.

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John Deere Purpose-Built Pipelayer-Ready Crawlers Give Customers New Options in the Pipeline Industry



Purpose-built in Dubuque, Iowa, the John Deere-designed and manufactured 1050K pipelayer-ready (PL) crawlers are now available for pipeline customers looking to get a lift on the competition. The 1050K pipelayer is available in two configurations for 170,000 pounds (PL170) and 220,000 pounds (PL220) of maximum lift capacity.

“Our pipeline customers asked for a purpose-built John Deere pipelayer,” said Nathan Horstman, crawler product marketing manager, John Deere Construction & Forestry. “This was the ideal opportunity to design and manufacture two pipelayer configurations based on our largest crawler platform.”

The 350 horsepower 1050K PL models boast a dual-path hydrostatic transmission that delivers more precise movement and control along the trench. Additionally, electrohydraulic controls enable exceptionally fine metering when placing the pipe.

When they leave the factory, the pipelayer-ready crawlers are ready for the customer’s choice of an approved supplier boom. The machines’ feature a bolt-on/pin-up design that simplifies sideboom installation, improving reliability and reducing setup times.

A purpose-built pipelayer cab integrates an electrohydraulic joystick for precise one-handed control of the load line, boom and counterweight. A large roof-mounted skylight provides operators with a clear view of the boom. To further simplify setup, the purpose-built cab is factory equipped for easy installation of the sideboom supplier’s load moment indicator (LMI).

The cab tilts with the sideboom installed for increased uptime. The front grille is hinged to provide easy access to the coolers. Toolless access is provided to dipstick, sight gauges, fill tubes, batteries, master electrical shutoff, engine, transmission and all filters. Eco mode and auto-idle, which can provide significant fuel savings in many pipeline applications are standard on all John Deere crawlers. Eco mode automatically adjusts engine speed and transmission settings based on load, and has the potential to reduce fuel consumption up to 25 percent with no loss in productivity.

Fleet managers looking to get the most out of their 1050K pipelayer-ready crawlers can rely on their John Deere dealers to provide Ultimate Uptime, featuring John Deere WorkSight™. With Ultimate Uptime, owners receive predelivery and follow-up inspections that include five years of JDLink™ telematics, machine health prognostics, remote diagnostics, programming capabilities and the ability to add dealer-provided uptime solutions to create a customized package.

For additional information and model-specific specifications on the 1050K pipelayer-ready crawlers, visit JohnDeere.com or contact your local dealer for a demo.

About Deere & Company

Deere & Company (NYSE: DE) is a world leader in providing advanced products and services and is committed to the success of customers whose work is linked to the land - those who cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land to meet the world’s dramatically increasing need for food, fuel, shelter and infrastructure. Since 1837, John Deere has delivered innovative products of superior quality built on a tradition of integrity.

UltraView™ LED Torpedo Levels: Vial Visibility in Low Light Conditions



Empire Level, the inventor of the torpedo level, continues to deliver innovative solutions for layout applications with the introduction of the UltraView™ LED Torpedo Level. With the launch of this new design, Empire further revolutionizes the torpedo level category by integrating dual ultraviolet LEDs, optical brightener, and high-contrast e-Band™ vials to deliver high definition viewing in all conditions.

“A lighted torpedo is the preferred tool for low light applications in electrical, mechanical, plumbing, masonry and general remodeling applications but, unfortunately, the options available today either lack durability or bubble visibility,” said Rick Gray, Sr. VP and GM for Empire Level. “We’re proud to announce that our new UltraView™ LED Torpedos don’t ask users to make this type of tradeoff. This new Torpedo not only features technology that improves vial visibility in these low light conditions, but delivers on the electronic durability and magnetic performance users need.”

Empire’s UltraView™ LED Torpedo Level is equipped with a patent-pending system that utilizes dual ultraviolet LED lights that surround each vial for maximum visibility and helps to illuminate the bubble meniscus - giving users the confidence that they are measuring correctly the first time, despite low light or dark conditions.

The new UltraView™ LED Torpedo features exclusive high contrast vial surrounds for industry-leading visibility, as well as a top read window for a clear overhead view. Empire’s patented e-Band™ vials also provide maximum visibility and durability.

Just like all True Blue® solutions, the new UltraView™ LED Torpedo represents the very best in high-performing layout solutions from Empire. A Ruler Groove on the top is designed for applications that require extended measuring and marking, allowing users to insert a straight edge into the groove to create a longer measuring surface and scribe more easily. This Ruler Groove doubles as a V-Groove to help the Level easily fit on pipes. An anti-slip Surface Grip on the back of the level also provides users with additional stability so the level doesn’t slip while in use. The new UltraView™ Torpedo Level is also designed with powerful rare earth magnets for a superior holding strength on pipe and other metal surfaces.

IP54 rated for protection from dust and water, Empire’s UltraView™ LED Torpedo Level is constructed from an all metal, I-Beam frame to withstand the harshest jobsite conditions and protect the level for long-life accuracy.* For added utility, a slim tapered design allows users to easily slide the Torpedo in and out of pockets and pouches.

The new UltraView™ LED Torpedo Level is a testament to Empire’s focus on developing new technology for layout and measurement applications that provides trusted accuracy from project planning through project finish. All True Blue® products are backed by a limited lifetime warranty and confirm Empire’s commitment to best-in-class durability and innovation.

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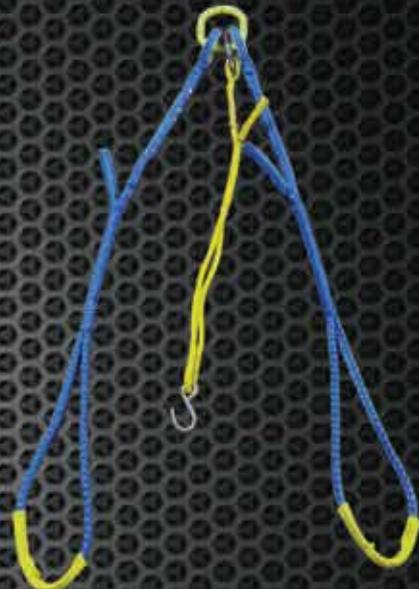
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HammerHead Releases Air Hammer Designed for Small Utility Drills



HammerHead Trenchless Equipment, a Charles Machine Works company, has introduced the new HammerHead Roughneck™ R200, the first two-inch rock hammer engineered specifically for horizontal directional drilling applications. The R200, the smallest pneumatic rock hammer of HammerHead's Roughneck line, is designed to expand the capabilities of small utility drills allowing 7000- to 10,000-ton class directional drills to effectively drill through solid rock as well as other difficult soil conditions.

The R200 rock hammer was made to be the most efficient system available to HDD contractors in communications, gas, electrical and water service installations. The R200 model drills a 3.125-inch pilot hole.

"The R200 allows you to use a small drill on jobs you couldn't before. If you needed to drill through solid rock, you'd have to bring a large drill to supply enough power which requires more labor, more support equipment, and more time to complete the job. With the R200, contractors can save money by maximizing the capabilities of a small drill," explained Josh Hood, HammerHead HDD product manager. "When you're working in small spaces or drilling short distances such as under a road bed, it makes sense to use a small drill and now you can, regardless of soil conditions."

A key feature unique to the R200 rock hammer is the electronically-controlled air flow. With the touch of a button, the operator can adjust the air flow from open to closed and anywhere in between which allows them to manage the power of the hammer on the fly. This feature is critical in situations where soil conditions change abruptly. The ability to reduce or increase power quickly prevents costly interruptions during the bore.

The HammerHead R200 air hammer shares similar features with the other models of the HammerHead Roughneck line. The Roughneck R400, R500 and R600 are recognized as some of the most trusted and productive pneumatic rock

hammers available for HDD applications. All four models are capable of drilling at rates of up to 150-feet per hour with exceptional steering performance. Additionally, all Roughneck rock hammers feature side-load high-flow housing, a patented pull back kit system and a lightweight control station.

Serviceability is a key design feature in all HammerHead pneumatic hammers and the R200 is no exception. Patented spanner wrench holes in the front and rear of the hammer reduces the number of breakout jaws required when performing maintenance or changing out rock bits.

The HammerHead R200 rock hammer is offered as a complete system to get contractors up and running. The system includes a R200 Roughneck air hammer, offset and angled offset bits, patented pullback kit, control station/oiler with tethered electronic remote control, hydraulic breakout tooling, 2.5-inch universal high-flow housing, and a conversion kit specific to the drill.

The R200 rock hammer system is available from HammerHead Trenchless Equipment or from authorized dealers, worldwide. Authorized dealers can be found on the web at www.hammerheadtrenchless.com or by calling 800.331.6653. (International: + [1] 920.648.4848).

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Klein® Tools Tradesman Pro™ Tough Box Cooler Keeps Items Cool for Up to 30 Hours

Klein Tools, for professionals since 1857, introduces the Tradesman Pro™ Tough Box Cooler that keeps items cool for up to 30 hours, while also serving as a place to sit. This dual-purpose, 18-can capacity cooler can accommodate 1-liter bottles, includes a lock hasp and has a shoulder strap for easy transportation.



Tradesman Pro™ Tough Box Cooler (Cat. No. 55600)

- Keeps items cool up to 30 hours
- Main compartment has a 17-quart (16 liters), 18-can capacity
- No rust, stainless steel hinged lid is recessed to accommodate 1-liter water bottles and stays open at 90° to allow hands-free access
- Lid opens a full 180° to access the dry compartment located inside the lid, perfect for smaller items, like medicine, napkins or utensils
- Industrial exterior body design supports seating capacity of up to 300 pounds
- Includes a shoulder strap to hold the lid in place while carrying and can easily convert to a handle
- Includes a lock hasp to keep items safe inside

“The new Tradesman Pro Tough Box Cooler is the most durable and reliable cooler on the market,” says Linda Rolfe, senior product manager at Klein Tools. “We know electricians work on their feet all day, so we designed the dual-purpose cooler as a place where electricians can sit during their lunch break and enjoy cold drinks and other food items all day long. The multi-compartment cooler also includes a lock hasp to keep all their items safe.”

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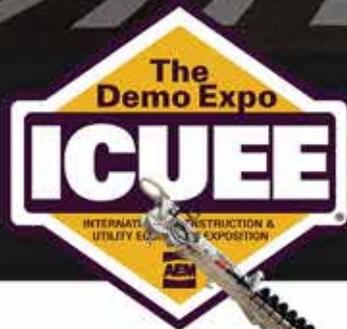
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Lone Star Drills' LST1G+HDA Offers Depth Control with Automatic Hammer

The **Lone Star LST1G+HDA** Geotechnical Drill from **Little Beaver** provides engineers and soil technicians with a precise and easy-to-operate drilling solution for standard penetration tests and soil sampling in nearly any soil. Lone Star designed the drill to address the growing demand for automatic hammers that deliver improved depth control compared to manual hammers. The LST1G+HDA comes standard with a 140-pound automatic safety hammer. The heavy-duty rig is mounted on an easily maneuverable, single-axle trailer that can be towed behind a small or standard sized truck.

“Automatic hammers help to ensure accurate depth control compared to manual hammers. This has even led some states and jurisdictions to require automatic

hammers for conducting standard penetration tests,” said Joe Haynes, Little Beaver president. “The LST1G+HDA eliminates user error and makes it easy for drill operators of any experience level to take samples quickly and accurately.”

The LST1G+HDA is capable of drilling 6-inch boreholes down to 100 feet. The versatile drill can also be used with Little Beaver’s split spoon samplers and AWJ drilling rod for obtaining core samples or conducting geotechnical testing and environmental soil sampling.

Little Beaver offers a wealth of auger options to adapt to varying applications. Solid stem augers are available in 3- to 8-inch diameters and hollow stem augers are avail-

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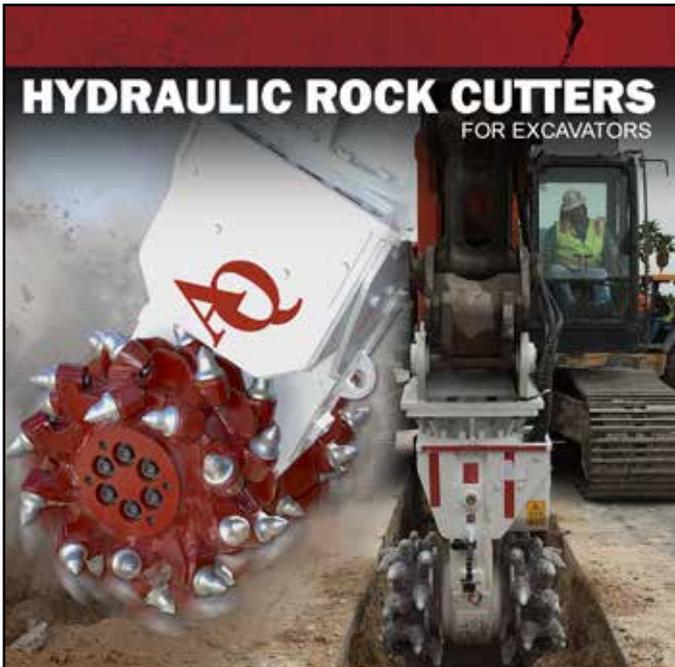
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able in 6- and 8-inch diameters. The hollow stem augers, which can drill to 60 feet, feature a 2.75- or 3.75-inch internal diameter for collecting samples without the risk of contamination from surrounding soil. The LST1G+HDA's standard configuration allows for dry auger boring with the use of a solid or hollow stem auger. The drill is also capable of mud rotary boring using an optional mud pump, swivel and bit.

The drill's bypass flow control system allows the operator to make simple adjustments to achieve and main-

tain ideal push-down force when drilling in challenging conditions. Additionally, an optional anchor kit enables the LST1G+HDA to deliver push-down force up to 8,500 pounds, far exceeding the weight of the trailer. The drill is also capable of an 8,500-pound lifting capacity for the hassle-free removal of augers and extensions. The hinged shuttle plate provides easy access to the borehole by allowing the operator to swing the rotary out of the way.

A 27-horsepower Kohler EFI gas engine powers the drill, which includes a powerful 3,000-psi hydraulic system.



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The drill's 12.5-gpm hydraulic power pack achieves a rotary speed of 100 rpm. The system also provides the drill's hydraulic winch with 1,500 pounds of pull for raising the automatic hammer.

Little Beaver designed the LST1G+HDA for longevity and ease of use. The frame, rotary and swivel are constructed of high-strength welded steel for enhanced durability, and all crucial maintenance and greasing points are easily accessible.

The 3,000-pound unit is mounted on a rugged yet light-weight single-axle trailer equipped with a 2-inch hitch, leveling jacks and spare tire. For improved maneuverability, Little Beaver offers a specially designed frame for mounting the unit to a one-ton flatbed truck.

The LST1G+HDA can be shipped fully assembled in a 20-foot container by standard truck or overseas. The drill comes with assembly tools for fast and easy setup.

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While most manufacturers have designed their track carriers from snow grooming machines, Morooka designed its carriers specifically for heavy-duty use in rigorous agriculture, forestry and construction applications from the bottom up. That same industry-specific dedication is at the core of Morooka USA LLC, headquartered in Ashland, Virginia, since 2005. Morooka is the only manufacturer of rubber track carriers wholly made in America, with models designed and built specifically for use in North American applications.

Now Morooka has added a rubber track carrier line dedicated to the North American utilities industry.

Ken Byrd, president of Morooka USA said the company is always looking at how to meet the unique needs of end-users. "We had looked at what our construction models were doing for the U.S. oil and gas industry. So much of that work is installing pipeline infrastructure in remote, undeveloped, hard-to-access areas. We realized the same was true for the utilities industry. Electrical transmission and distribution lines are often in those same types of environments. Our construction models could be retrofitted to meet most of their needs, and there are other manufacturers that do exactly that. But Morooka has always matched its models to the job."

That's why five years ago Morooka USA began working with North American utilities customers to create a dedicated line of Tier 4-compliant carriers, the VDL-series. Morooka has six models currently available and another being introduced at

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ICUEE later this fall, the MST4500VDL. “We are committed to the utilities industry. We’ve pushed the limits of what carriers can do for them with the 125-foot bucket reach of the 4500VDL. To be able to go off road in any environment at that size and price point – one client has already told me it’s a real game-changer for them.”

Utilities-specific

The VDL models have the same robust design of Morooka’s construction carrier models, and like them, are made from U.S. steel, by U.S. personnel with U.S.-based customer support. Beyond that, Byrd said, the carriers differ in several key ways.

“One of the primary differences is engine placement,” Byrd said. “Construction models have center-frame mounted engines, but utilities companies attach digger derricks and bucket lifts to the carriers. They need room to mount the masts and to lay them down for ease of transport. We keep the center well freed up by offsetting the engine.” Byrd noted that the open center well has also been advantageous for attaching personnel carriers and hydro-seeders. Another major change has been accommodating attach-

ments common to the utilities industry that require extended frames. “Again, it’s because our design and manufacturing facilities are right here in the U.S. Our frames are built right here, so it’s easy for us to customize them to North American equipment specifications. We don’t have to piece on an extension to an existing frame. We simply build one solid frame to whatever the specs call for.” The built-to-spec frame eliminates any concern for overstressing a weld at the extension, since there is no extension welded on. “Our frames are solid.” Curt Unger, Morooka USA Vice President of Sales, said the ability to build to spec has additional benefits. One is mobilization readiness. Most of the VDL models meet the DOT-approved width of 8 feet 6 inches for permit-free transportation. “Utility companies might need to respond immediately at any time,” Unger said. “When they get called out because a snowstorm Friday evening took down a distribution line, they can’t be held up waiting through the weekend to get a permit. With our carriers, they just go.”

Byrd said, “We manufacture a good share of our utilities models as OEM proprietary designs,” Byrd said. “We’ll custom-design and build to the dimensions they specify.” Customization is made easier by the new carrier line’s mounting





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frames, which duplicate the mounting frame of a wheeled carrier to easily accept digger derricks and lift buckets without special adaptation. "Other makes of carrier need a sub frame," Byrd said. "Ours does not. One of our OEM clients told me this has been saving installers about 40 to 50 hours of build-time per unit. Fewer man-hours and lower material cost represent a huge savings on every Morooka carrier installation."

Morooka tough

Unger said reliability is critical to utilities applications. "Your track carriers will get you to places that wheeled vehicles just can't go – so that much farther from help if you need it. Take the snowstorm scenario again as an example. You need to get your equipment out there on a weekend, and you need to trust that it won't let you down once you're there."

Unger said that's why Morooka carriers make such good vehicles for the utilities industry. The line of carriers shares the robust build of all Morooka lines. One key area is tread and carriage. The aggressive, straight bar tread pattern favored by the construction and oil and gas industries gives utilities customers the same benefits: increased traction, reduced tearing and wide ground pressure disbursement to track easily over muddy or sandy soils.

"That's one of the most common concerns I hear about rubber track carriers, tread life," Unger said. "How does rubber hold up? But all our tracks were made specifically for long life under rigorous use." Morooka tracks feature its Continuous Steel Core technology. Their helically wound steel cords have no inside joints to fail. The one-piece design also prevents stretching and derailing. "CSC eliminates about 95 percent of the traditional causes of rubber track failure," Unger said.

"Our treads also have a greater number of contact points than other makes." Greater contact with the ground, Unger said, lowers ground pressure, placing less stress on any given contact point with the treads and contributing to a longer service life. "Overall our units average ground pressure is less than a man's footprint."

The footprint of the average human male exerts a ground pressure of about 8.0 psi. The MST1500VDL model with 225 hp Tier 4 Cat engine exerts a ground pressure of only 2.6 psi, though the unit is 23 feet 8 inches long with a width of 8 feet 6 inches and weighs 21,660 pounds. Fully loaded to its

20,000 pound maximum capacity, its ground pressure is only 5.0 psi.

The largest of the 8 foot 6 inch wide Morooka models to date is the MST2500VDL with 250 hp Tier 4 Cat engine. At 27 feet 6 inches long, it weighs 29,000 pounds and exerts a ground pressure of 2.6 psi. With a 30,460-pound maximum load, its ground pressure is still just 5.1 psi.

Morooka carriers are easy to maintain, and excellent parts availability minimizes downtime for service and repair. All engines for the North American market feature top brand-name, Tier 4 engines from Cummins, Cat and Kubota. "And the fuel tanks, the cabs, the frames – 95 percent of everything on our carriers is made right here in the U.S., so we have excellent in-stock availability of the most commonly needed parts, with total parts availability for our carriers rated at about 88 percent at any given time."

Operator safety and comfort surpass standards for the North American market. Units feature ROPS-certified frames and cabins, Danfoss® joystick controls and easy-to-read digital display, backup cameras, and heated remote mirrors. Morooka USA rubber track carriers have hydrostatic transmissions and come with a one year, 1,000-hour warranty. Morooka's industry-leading dealer, parts and service network ensures coast-to-coast after-sales product support throughout North America. The new line of purpose-built machines gives utilities end-users a rubber track carrier dedicated to the unique work they do that they can count on wherever and whenever they need to do it.



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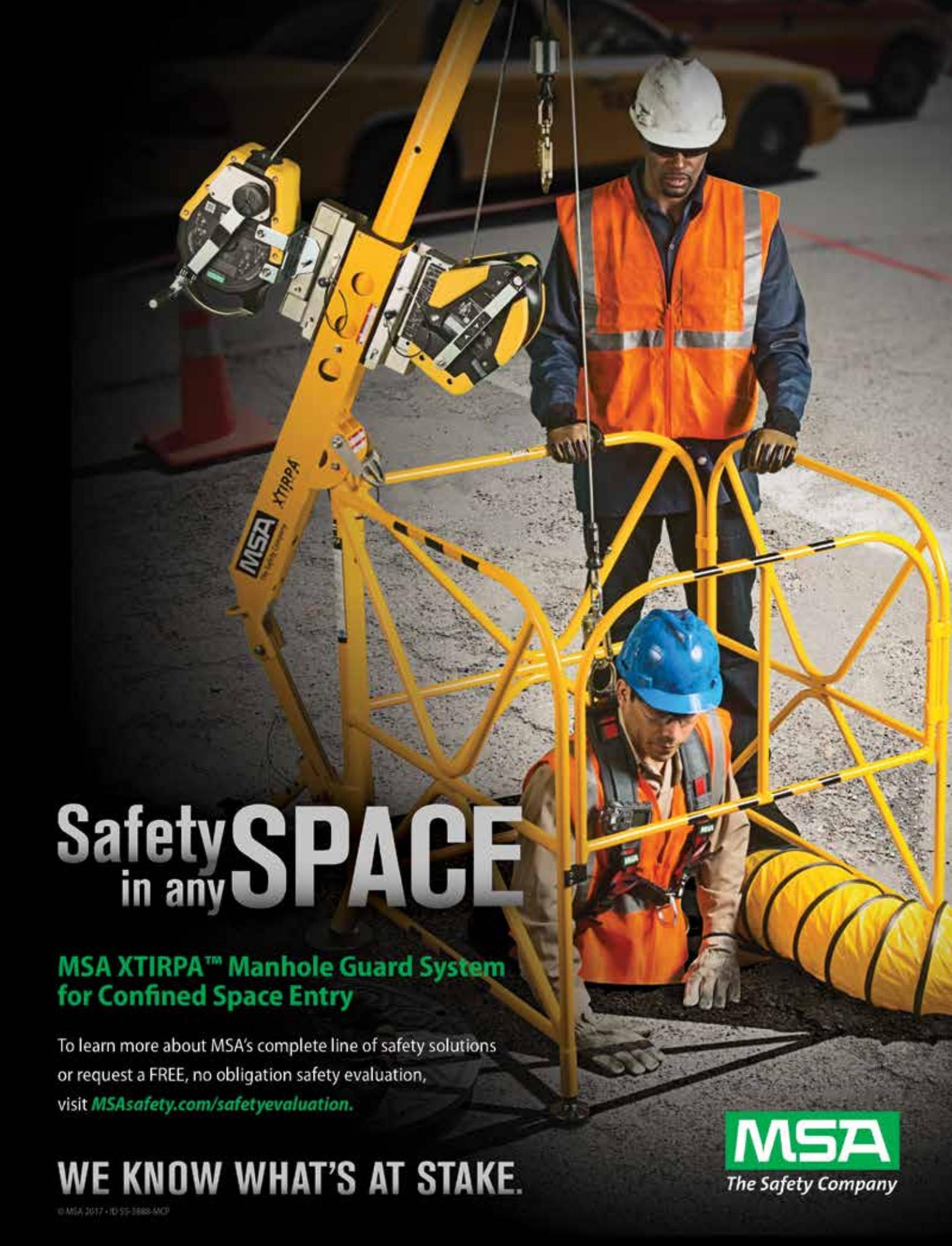
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