

SCE Develops New Tool to Improve Workforce Safety

SCE continues to set the stage for new innovative ideas that support current and future workforce technologies and enhance safety. New Smart Grid technologies involve both overhead and underground infrastructure components for our workforce.

“A revolutionary new tool for providing our workers a safe and efficient method while working around underground vaults,” says Jim Palma, Technical Specialist for SCE Advanced Technology Business Unit.

The Smartbar works to assist workman descending and ascending into underground utility vaults.

Under development since May 2010, the Smartbar’s unique design was field tested and approved for use on October 19, 2010. The Smartbar secures to the concrete vault lid and allows the workers flexibility to adjust its position as needed (Figure 1). The Smartbar also provides attachments for securing vault environmental safety equipment while in use.

Work practices need to evolve as our system infrastructure gets increasingly complex. Future Smart Grid Infrastructures may contain underground utility vaults as well as overhead structures.

“Creating an injury-free workplace.” is our number one priority says Jim. “We cannot build a Smart Grid without focusing on safety.”



Figure 1. Smartbar attached to Vault Lid

