



Bovis Lend Lease Marks Major Milestone of 2.5 Million Safe Hours on RMH Job Site

Bovis Lend Lease, project construction manager for the new RMH hospital, has logged more than 2.5 million incident- and injury-free hours on the job site.

This achievement means that no employees have missed work time due to injuries suffered on the job.

Keith Smith, regional safety manager, Bovis Lend Lease, said that few construction projects reach the level of hours worked at the RMH site and even fewer reach this milestone with no lost time injuries.

"We believe it is our obligation that our workers return home safely to their families each day," Smith said. "It only takes a second for an accident to occur. The Rockingham Memorial Hospital team has worked 9 billion seconds with no ill health or lost time incidents. This project is among the elite when it comes to safety performance."

Gordon "Boney" Jones, general superintendent, Bovis Lend Lease, said the project has been submitted to Bovis Lend Lease International for a global safety award.

"The RMH hospital and health campus project is truly impressive," Jones said. "It means a lot to me because I've always been safety-conscious and believed in safety, but this is the best job I've ever worked on, safety-wise. The most important part is that the workers out in the field have embraced the concept of working safe and going home at the end of each day just like you came."

Bovis celebrated the achievement at a Sept. 16 event that also honored retiring safety manager Ray Montaigne, who oversaw the RMH project from its beginning in 2006.

"The Rockingham Memorial Hospital project embodied everything I believed could happen if everyone joined the incident-and injury-free journey," Montaigne said. "I've been doing this work for 45 years, and this has been the most flawless project I've worked on. In the Harrisonburg area, there's not been a project of this magnitude and complexity for a long time."

This was a job with a diversity of contractors. For many, this was one of the larger projects they've worked on. Regardless of background, everybody joined on the journey of safety."

Bovis Lend Lease has a strong commitment to ensuring

workplace safety and requires all workers on the job site to undergo a rigorous safety training program, according to Laura Cooper, site safety supervisor.

"I am very proud of everyone on this job site for their dedication to the incident- and injury-free journey," Cooper said. "I thank all of the men and women in the field for their safe attitudes and cooperation. They are the ones who make this such an outstanding project."

Currently there are more than 450 workers on the construction site daily.

"We are thrilled at the impeccable safety record of our partner in this project, Bovis Lend Lease," said Dennis Coffman, director, RMH Facilities Planning and Development. "This milestone is a testament to the commitment of Bovis to ensuring a safe work environment."

The new facility is slated to open in June 2010.



From left, Gordon "Boney" Jones, general superintendent, Bovis Lend Lease; Ray Montaigne, retiring safety manager; and Laura Cooper, site safety supervisor, gather at a celebration of reaching 2.5 million safe hours worked at the RMH job site. Montaigne, who oversaw the RMH project from its beginning in 2006 until his retirement this month, was honored at the Sept. 16 event.



Harman Construction Inc. Marks "Topping Out" of Hahn Building

Harman Construction Inc. has celebrated the "topping out," or completion of the steel placement phase, of the Hahn Building at the new RMH campus.

"Topping out" is a ceremony in which the final steel beam is hoisted into place, signifying the completion of the building's steel structure. In the high-steel trade, it announces that the construction has reached the sky without loss of life or serious injury.

"It was a team effort to safely achieve this milestone," said Ryan Morris, project manager, Harman Construction Inc. "We truly appreciate our subcontractors, who have adopted our philosophy of safety."

Construction is now past its midpoint on the three-story building on the new RMH health campus that will house the Hahn Cancer Center, according to Scott Campbell, senior project manager, Facilities Planning and Development.

Masonry work will wrap up in November, Campbell said, and interior finishes will get underway in January 2010 to ready the building for June 2010 occupancy.

The Hahn Cancer Center will occupy the ground level and connect to the hospital by an enclosed corridor. The Center is scheduled to open with the hospital in June 2010, Campbell said. The upper two levels, which will house RMH physician offices, should open later in 2010.



Topping out! Harman Construction Inc. recently celebrated the "topping out," or completion of steel structure placement, for the Hahn Building, which will house the Hahn Cancer Center at the new hospital. Pictured, from left, at a recent celebration are Wayne Witmer, president, Harman Construction; John Bazan, safety director, Harman Construction; Bob Clopper, project manager, Facilities Planning and Development; Ryan Morris, project manager, Harman Construction; and Scott Campbell, senior project manager, Facilities Planning and Development.

Project Update

- Interior finishes are nearly 75 percent complete.
- Local contractors are placing owner-installed equipment (paper towel holders, soap dispensers, etc.).
- Workers are beginning to place exterior walls and close in parts of the Hahn Building.
- Landscape work around the hospital building is underway.
- The methane gas pipeline installation is underway. The line will be installed within the next several months.

RMH's "Field of Greens"

The 254-acre home of the new RMH is diverse, with fields, pastures, wetlands and woodlands. Caring for these lands requires an equally diverse land management plan, noted Dennis Coffman, director, Facilities Planning and Development.

RMH has already reclaimed wetlands on its property with help of JMU students, who planted trees and created berms. These will help filter runoff that makes its way to Pleasant Run, which trickles past the land, standing at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, Coffman said.

RMH has also contracted with landscape architect Ann P. Stokes of Norfolk to design the long-range land use plan for the 180 acres outside Health Campus Drive, the loop road surrounding the 64-acre campus. Managing the rolling acres of pasture and farmland, however, presents a unique challenge. The cost of mowing this amount of acreage could reach tens of thousands of dollars annually, Coffman said.

Instead, RMH is pursuing a unique option to reclaim these lands using rotation of various plants with the help of a local farmer. For three years, this land will be rotated between plantings to restore the natural balance to the soil without use of commercial fertilizers. This will help benefit the quality of the watershed, he explained.

A local contractor has already begun clearing the unused portion of the land on the RMH campus, removing wire fences and dead trees to get it ready for cultivation. But RMH staff and visitors won't have to wait three years to see "green." Winter rye will already be planted this winter, producing a dark green field surrounding the new hospital. After a three-year period of crop rotation, the land will be planted with orchard grass.

"It will be a big wavy field of grass, much like a historic battlefield," Coffman said. "The idea is to make it a park-like setting."

Q&A

Q: I know there will not be a road connecting Boyers Road to the new hospital when we move next summer, but will there be foot/bike access?

A: Yes. The initial route is a bit out of the way, but foot and bike traffic can access the new hospital and health campus by using the driveway at the white house (.6 mile from the intersection of Boyers and Port Republic Roads) and connecting to a gravel cart path that will lead from the maintenance shop to Health Campus Drive. Please use caution when crossing Boyers Road or when riding your bike. We want everyone to be safe!

