

HAKI® enclosure wins out over arctic weather at mod yard in Canada

Safway® Group

An outdoor fabrication yard is great in theory, offering wide open spaces, good light, fresh air and unobstructed access for any heavy equipment. Trouble is if your yard is in Alberta, Canada, it can get very cold. So when the fabrication crew arrived at the modular fabrication yard last February, no one was surprised to see the mercury at -35 F. Of course the team at the mod yard knew all about protecting against cold, snow and wind. The team even has an in-house scaffolding crew to put up temporary enclosures.

But for this job — the fabrication of a huge piece of equipment for oil sands bitumen processing — they needed to enclose nearly half a million cubic feet, and they needed to build the enclosure quickly in an extreme weather environment. So they tried something new: the HAKI® enclosure system offered by Safway.

“The HAKI system changes everything,” said Dave Tanguay, Safway’s account manager in Alberta. “Not only do you go from a brutal outdoor worksite to an enclosed space, but you do it without losing the key advantages of yard fabrication, including the ability to load in large materials.”

In the past, if a mod yard wanted to enclose a worksite, a lot of time and money had to be spent building an enclosure from traditional scaffolding and heavy trusses. With HAKI, workers can handle strong modular spans by hand and build huge, unobstructed enclosed spaces safely and quickly.

In this case, a roof was built to go on top of traditional scaffolding. The structure was 70 feet wide and 130 feet long. A strong, flexible vinyl sheeting stretched over the long HAKI spans to form a continuous seal enclosing the entire site.

Although the workers had never seen the HAKI product before, they found it easy to work with under the guidance of Safway trainers. In fact, it was so easy to work with they completed the entire structure in four days. To do something similar using more traditional methods would take four weeks.

“The HAKI system was really good, probably one of the best decisions we’ve ever made,” said the mod yard’s scaffolding crew foreman. “It’s light, strong and assembles quickly.”

Another key benefit was HAKI’s modular setup allows parts of an enclosure to be moved or removed temporarily to load in or extract large parts by crane. In comparison, it would have cost thousands of dollars more to build and then remove sections for brief periods using a more traditional access solution.

In this case, the equipment being fabri-

cated was a large processing unit for use in the oil sands area. To increase productivity and work quality in the initial fabrication, temperature control was a must. At the same time, large pieces of 1-inch-thick steel, each weighing more than a ton, had to be brought in as the construction moved

along. With HAKI, a section of the roof could be quickly removed during lunchtime when workers were off-site, allowing steel to be hoisted in with a crane. The open section was then replaced by the time the crew returned. The crew foreman estimated this ability saved approximately

11,000 man-hours.

The HAKI structure was up for six months, after which it was quickly disassembled without incident and removed from the mod yard.

For more information, visit www.safway.com/HAKI or call (800) 558-4772. ●

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