



Roxsand



The remaining concrete silos prior to implosion.

When the Script Changes, So Do We

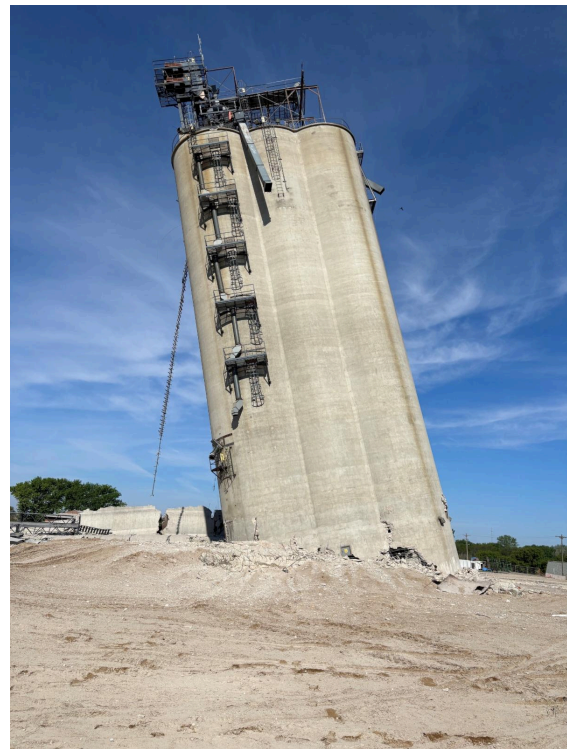
There's nothing quite like a well-built plan. It gives us direction, confidence, and a clear path forward. Every now and then, often at the least convenient moment, that plan decides to take a sharp left turn. Murphy's Law reminds us: anything that can go wrong, will go wrong...and probably with an audience (there were around 250-300 observers for both the main event and the encore).



Round 1 of the implosion.

Recently, we experienced one of those moments during the Jasper, MN grain elevator implosion. It was carefully planned, thoroughly reviewed, and professionally executed and yet it didn't unfold exactly as expected. That's the reality of complex work. The measure of success isn't just in the plan itself, but in how we respond when things don't go according to it.

At L. G. Everist, Inc., we anchor ourselves in one principle: safety comes first every time, no exceptions. When something unexpected happens, there can be a natural urge to push



The East silo refusing to go down without a fight.

Challenges reveal the strength of a team. In moments like this, there's no room for finger-pointing; only problem-solving. Strong teams communicate quickly, support one another, and stay focused on the goal: resolving the issue safely and effectively.

What stood out most wasn't that the plan needed adjusting, rather it was how the team came

forward quickly and “fix it.” That’s precisely when we need to slow down. We reassess, reestablish controls, and ensure every decision protects both our team and the public around us.

In this case, that meant securing the area, maintaining clear communication, and ensuring that anyone nearby remained protected. Safety isn’t just a consideration; it’s a responsibility. Every action we take must reflect that commitment.



Round 2 of the implosion 8 hours later.

When the implosion went sideways, staying calm wasn’t just helpful, it was essential. A steady mindset allowed us to think clearly, evaluate risks, and avoid compounding the problem. Sometimes the most productive move in a high-pressure situation is also the simplest: pause and take a breath. That moment of reset can mean the difference between reacting and responding. It creates space for smart decisions, measured actions, and better outcomes for everyone involved.

together. We had contingency plans in place for such a scenario. However, a new strategy was needed to complete the demolition. People stepped up, shared insights, and worked side by side to adapt in real time. That’s what turns a difficult situation into a successful one.

The truth is, no matter how much preparation goes into a job, especially one as complex as an implosion, there will always be variables we can’t fully control. Having the right outlook means expecting that possibility and being ready for it. Resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to doing things the right way are what carry us through. It’s not about avoiding every challenge; it’s about overcoming them the right way.

Even in serious situations, a bit of humor can go a long way. I heard things like the “Leaning Tower of Jasper” or references to the Zip Feed Mill implosion in Sioux Falls from 20 years ago and my personal favorite “Well...That’s not Ideal.”

The key is that we don’t let those moments define us. We learn, we adjust, and we keep moving forward smarter and stronger than before. At the end of the day, it’s not whether things go exactly as planned. It’s whether we stay safe, protect those around us, support each other, learn to respond and rise to meet the challenge.

**Written by Lance Pollman,
Engineering Manager**

Check out the Roxsand in an audio version!

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L. G. Everist Welcomes Eight Interns to the Company

Four Engineering Interns

Carson Wheeler, a Sioux Falls native, is a sophomore at the School of Mines studying Mechanical Engineering. This is his first internship, and he is based at East Sioux Quarry. He is most excited about the hands-on opportunity it provides. He believes that to gain knowledge and experience, “Every engineer should know how equipment operates in the field,” Wheeler said.

From Volga, SD, Brock Bloker is a junior in Mechanical Engineering at the School of Mines. Based in Brookings as an engineering intern, his favorite aspect of the job thus far is the atmosphere his coworkers provide. “This is a serious job, but the people here have found a way to make it entertaining,” Bloker said. The values are reflected in the people because the company “really cares about their employees.”

Jack Wilde, a sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering at the School of Mines, is from Baltic, SD, and is gaining hands-on experience as an intern at Dell Rapids West Quarry. He thrives on the ever-changing nature of his work and values the practical skills he's developing each day. “When I come to work, we are always doing something different, and I really enjoy that,” Wilde said.

As a graduate from Southeast Technical College, Tanner Afdahl earned an associate degree in Land Surveying and Civil Engineering. He enjoys using the equipment and applying his knowledge from the classroom in a professional setting. He hopes to succeed and “bring fresh eyes and ideas to the role.”

Two Ace Ready Mix Interns

Charlie Simonsen is a quality control intern at Ace Ready Mix. Originally from Brandon, he is a senior at SDSU majoring in concrete industry management. Since starting, he has enjoyed seeing how classroom knowledge translates into his future career. “I love seeing how everything applies,” Simonsen said. “My bosses here have helped make that possible because they’re helping to show me how things are done on the site and in the lab.”

Aiden Foley, an intern at Ace Ready Mix, is from Harrisburg, SD. He is currently a senior at SDSU studying concrete industry management. After a couple of weeks on the job, he most appreciates the people. “I love it here. I’ve interned with other places, but I enjoy how personable everyone is,” Foley said. “And it’s because we all know we’re one team, and succeed as a team.”

Two Sioux Falls Office Interns

Sophie Parsons is a communications intern in the Sioux Falls office. Originally from Mount Vernon, SD, she is a junior at Augustana University with a double major in English and Journalism. The company’s welcoming atmosphere is unlike anything she has felt in previous jobs. “You can tell everyone wants one another to succeed,” Parsons said. “I most appreciate that my internship connects me with people across both the sites and the office; it provides an opportunity to get to know one another, and that’s the best part of my day.”

Anneka Furstenau, from Tilden, Nebraska, is an accounting intern in Sioux Falls and a rising SDSU senior. This is her first internship; however she “wasn’t expecting to be treated like family from the jump.” She added, “I could not have asked for a better group of people or company to begin my career. Both have offered such overarching experiences, from information about the mining industry to day-to-day operations.”

Written by Sophie Parsons, Communications Intern

Happy Birthday

Mylene Bangasser - Sioux Falls
Justin Lebahn - Sioux Falls
Garrett Hoff - Dell Rapids East
June Stahl - Dell Rapids East
Collin Klapperich - Dell Rapids West
Tyler Tebben - Brookings
Steven Berven - Myrl & Roy’s
Tanner Gassman - Myrl & Roy’s
Jesus Moncayo Salgado - Firestone
Samuel Covarrubias - Ragsdale
Misael Macedo - 88th Transload
Donoban Pacheco - 88th Transload
Zander Boswell - Ortonville

Milestone Anniversary

Jose Rodriguez Avalos - Fort Lupton



In 1954, LGE expanded west to Rapid City, SD, to help supply material for the construction of various dam projects, such as the Oahe Dam. Building a new quarry and rail logistics came with its share of challenges - from working to form a rail spur to discontinue the disruption of truck traffic, to proving modern blasting and dust control methods could safely coexist with the surrounding community. A reminder that even decades ago, LGE was balancing innovation, logistics, and community responsibility. The Rapid City quarry was under LGE operation until 1977.

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