

Safety & Training e Source Skilled

DECADES OF EXPERIENCE
DEVOTED TO YOUR SAFETY.



A monthly resource for members of IMEA's Safety, Education & Training program.

February 2019

Work Safely: Accident Free Environments

Please Follow Safety Rules!

Safety programs and safety rules are created for one purpose, and one purpose only – they're there to keep you and your fellow workers safe. What is our focus? Get home each night safe and sound. What safety rules do you follow?

Set realistic goals:

Every company has unique goals it hopes to accomplish through a safety commitment. Here are several goals to help you get started:

- Reduce accidents
- Reduce injuries
- Protect human resources
- Protect from liability
- Lower maintenance costs
- Heighten customer service
- Improve worker satisfaction
- Improve productivity
- Reduce damage
- Build a positive public image

From the Desk of Duane Richardson

Safety Awareness

Increasing safety awareness in an organization doesn't happen by accident. Studies have shown that employees know the rules and procedures to perform their assigned task safely, but they fail to remain focused on the task at hand. According to OSHA, over 80% of workplace injuries arise from worker behavior.

In the electric utility industry nearly 70% of all accidents are a result of lack of PPE or improper use of PPE. That's a staggering number when you take a second to think about it. Safety and Training meetings are an important part of every safety plan. Employers and employees have to make safety a value and a constant part of their daily assignments every single day.

Employees that have been doing the same job for years are at a higher risk, repetitive task leads to complacency and complacency leads to carelessness. Safety Awareness is the constant realization every employee must have of the hazards associated with their jobs and the proper procedures and equipment to use to mitigate those hazards.

Accountability breeds response-ability

IMEA CALENDAR

March

- 18-29 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop Class # 031819 (Lebanon)
- 21 IMEA Board Meeting (Carmel)

April

- 11 200 Amp Underground Workshop (Anderson)
- 18 Board Meeting (Carmel)

May

- 2 Supervisor Safety Workshop (Session 1) (Lawrenceburg)
- 15-17 IMEA Spring Conference & Business Meeting (Embassy Suites, Noblesville, IN.)
- 29 Brownbag Workshop (Lebanon)



Serve Your Community by Putting Safety First!

Municipal workers serve the community by providing a wide range of services. They face hazards ranging from auto accidents to trench collapses. When municipalities increase emphasis on safety and claims management, both the taxpayers and city workers win.

Do I really need a municipality safety program?

When you're weighing the importance of dedicating time and resources to safety, consider these statistics:

- 39% of work-related vehicle crashes are alcohol related. (National Safety Council)
- A roadway worker is hit and killed every 8 hours in the U.S.
- The fatality rate for excavation work is 112% higher than the rate for general construction. (OSHA)
- Approximately 350 electrical-related fatalities occur each year. (OSHA)

What's the real cost of a workplace injury?

The impact of workplace injury and illness extends far beyond the costs of medical care, especially when you consider these indirect areas of impact:

- Morale
- Reputation
- Group health insurance costs
- Effects on family members
- Loss in productivity
- Skill replacement
- Tight employment market
- Cost of hiring new employees

Safety is a belief system that requires a clear commitment from the top. Managers and supervisors must provide the resources, motivation, priorities and accountability needed for the safety and health of the workforce.

Get managers and supervisors on board!

When managers and supervisors elevate safety to a company value it becomes contagious. Here are some of the things your management team can do to make safety a natural and effective part of your company culture:

- Provide sufficient staffing, funds, time and equipment so employees can work safely and efficiently
- Appoint a safety coordinator if you don't have one on staff
- Demonstrate safe attitudes and lead by example
- Include open-ended questions about safety during the interview of potential supervisors
- Strive to involve every employee with safety
- Hold every employee accountable for safety and evaluate performance accordingly
- Comply with all governmental agencies, insurance carriers and internal procedures
- Ensure industry best practices are applied
- Brief employees on new hazards before the work day begins
- Assist Human Resources in reviewing employment applications, post-offer employment physical reports and personnel files to determine physical qualifications for specified job classifications
- Make transitional duty options available for injured employees
- Consistently enforce safety rules and regulations, programs and protective measures
- Create and enforce a company drug and alcohol policy
- Work with the safety coordinator, safety committee and employees to implement new and maintain ongoing safety programs and comply with recommendations from outside consultants, OSHA inspectors and insurance companies
- Acknowledge and reward employees who work safely and set a good example to others
- Review safety policies and obtain employee signatures annually



Technical Seminars
Networking
Vendor Expo
Banquet & Entertainment

