



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

Work Area Best Practices Safety Message

Often times much of our focus is given to the specific hazards of a work task, but less focus may be given to the hazards created by poor work area conditions. Work areas that are chaotic and that have poor organization can lead to more injuries and property damage incidents. It is important to consider what improvements we can make to our work areas to create a safe work environment.

Hazards Created by Chaotic Work Areas

- * Struck-by incidents- Work areas that do not have any designated paths for personnel walking through or areas blocked off for specific work tasks such as grinding, create struck-by hazards that can be particularly dangerous. Flying debris, lifting loads, and moving objects can all create struck-by hazards for anyone in the area.
- * Slips, trips, and falls- Objects on the ground due to poor organization or housekeeping create trip hazards for any walking through that area. Slippery surfaces due to moisture or other liquids such as oil can cause a slip or a fall. Uneven surfaces, steps, or unexpected drop-offs are also common trip hazards in poorly designed work areas.
- * Caught in or between incidents- Work areas that place people near moving parts or equipment are also a huge concern due to caught-in/between hazards. Moving equipment such as belts or fans can grab a hold of a person's clothing or hair pulling them into the moving parts.

Discussion points:

- What hazards are we not addressing in our work areas?
- What improvements can we make today and in the future to create a safer workplace?
- What other hazards and best practices are out there relating to our work areas?