



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

Taking Ownership Safety Message

Much of the time spent talking about safety on the job is focused on educating workers to be able to recognize or identify hazards on the job. Less time is spent discussing how to correctly mitigate those hazards. Part of correctly mitigating a hazard in the workplace is taking ownership of it and seeing it through that it gets corrected.

There is a huge difference between a worker who is able to recognize a hazard and a worker who recognizes a hazard and owns it until it is corrected. You may have heard someone say after an incident occurs, “yeah I saw him doing that, I knew something was going to happen” or “I knew someone was going to trip over that broken concrete at some point”. These statements show that the person saying this recognized the hazard, but most likely stopped there. They identified it was a hazard, but they did not take ownership of the hazard and follow through on making sure it gets corrected.

Safety in the workplace is everyone’s responsibility and injuries affect everyone in that workplace not just the person who gets hurt. When you recognize a hazard do not just keep it to yourself. Doing this may protect you, but it leaves everyone else in that area vulnerable to an injury or incident.

Discussion point:

-What is a hazard that people are likely to recognize in a workplace and think to themselves “it is not a big deal” or “someone else will take care of it”?