



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Rationalizing Unsafe Choices Safety Message

Making the decision to follow every single safety rule or procedure does not come naturally to us. We constantly have to work towards making the right decisions every single day. Many times individuals find ways to rationalize not working safely. It is important for each worker to recognize this error trap and address it when it arises.

Why We Rationalize Unsafe Choices

For the most part, we all know what the right choice is when it comes to safety during a specific work task. Safety training, policies, procedures, labels, etc. all communicate what needs to be done in order to mitigate hazards and work safely. The problem is, there are many factors that affect whether or not we want to make the right decisions in a given moment. A few of these factors include:

- * Time pressure
- * Lack of supervision around
- * Lack of enforcement of rules
- * Energy levels
- * Mood

Individuals facing one or more of these factors will use them to rationalize to themselves why a certain safety rule does not need to be followed.

Recognize when you are falling into the trap of rationalizing a poor decision whether that is in your personal life or while on the job. Fight the urge to make the easy decision. Be a worker who follows the rules and helps reinforce a norm of adhering to safe work practices and procedures.

Discussion point: What is an example of rationalizing a decision to work unsafe?