



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Protecting Against the Top 5 Utility Line Worker Hazards Safety Message

Electrical utility line work is dangerous, and there are many hazards that come along with this type of work.

**\* Failure to identify job hazards**

If an employee doesn't know the dangers of their job, they won't be able to protect against them.

**\* Failure to use proper personal protective equipment (70%)**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) plays a huge factor when it comes to workplace safety. Wearing protective equipment like proper gloves can mean the difference between a healthy hand and a hand burned from electrical contact.

**\* Failure to use proper cover up equipment**

In electrical work, cover up equipment is intended to both prevent employees from making accidental contact with energized parts or equipment, and to prevent accidental contact of energized conductors with the grounded surface of pole or crossarms.

**\* Failure to protect against currents in grounded systems**

Many linemen assume grounded systems are safe because they are grounded, but that's not always the case. Linemen do a lot more work around Transmission lines these days than they did 10-15 years ago. As these voltages have increased, so have the incidences of induction. Induction creates a circulating current in grounded systems, which is how electric current in grounded systems has become one of today's top hazards.

**\* Failure to drive safely to and from the job**

Most employees don't realize that driving to the job is part of the job. Too many accidents occur on the road, because workers are in a rush, complacent or preoccupied. To prevent driving accidents, employees need to keep their attention on the road and adhere to traffic safety laws. Being late to a job is not worth driving dangerously and risking injury, or worse.