



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

Hierarchy of Controls Safety Message

There are multiple safeguards to control any single hazard. Each level of these safeguards serves to protect employees. Some safeguards or controls are more effective than others. The hierarchy of controls outlines the controls used to mitigate a hazard from most effective to least effective.

The hierarchy can have additional or fewer levels of controls listed depending on the reference you are looking at. The hierarchy we will discuss is listed as elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and PPE in our example.

Hierarchy of Controls:

Elimination: Eliminate the hazard.

Substitution: Substitute a more hazardous process with a less hazardous one.

Engineering: Engineer out hazards.

Administrative: Administrative controls are things such as job training, job rotation, breaks, company policies, etc.

PPE: Personal protective equipment covers items such as, rubber gloves & sleeves, safety glasses, and earplugs.

We should always strive to eliminate as many hazards as possible. If elimination is not possible then other controls lower on the hierarchy should be implemented to protect employees.