



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Stopping Work Safety Message

When there are hazards present or some other issue that interferes with being able to perform a work task safely then it is important to feel comfortable to stop the work until it is safe to continue. Many companies stress the importance of being able to stop work without punishment, but there are many employees who do not feel comfortable doing this for many reasons.

Reasons Why Individuals Are Afraid to Stop Work

- * Afraid of punishment from supervisors
- * Want to avoid conflict with others
- * Do not want to be seen as scared or a “snitch”
- * Do not want to slow work down

Reasons to Stop Work

- * To protect yourself and your fellow coworkers
- * To protect property or equipment from damage or loss
- * To protect the company

Situations Where Stopping Work is Necessary

- * When there is an unaddressed hazard.
- * When the correct personnel are not a part of the task.
- * When you do not have the right tool or equipment for the job.
- * When you do not understand the work task or procedures. Stop and get clarification for the task.
- * When you do not have the correct knowledge or training to do a task safely.

Summary

These are just a few of the situations where stopping work is necessary. Individuals need to feel comfortable stopping work to address whatever the problem is to be able to complete the work safely and efficiently.

Discussion points:

- What are some situations that could come up in your work today where stopping work is necessary?
- Do you feel comfortable stopping work? Why or why not?
- Discuss a past incident and how stopping work could have prevented it.