

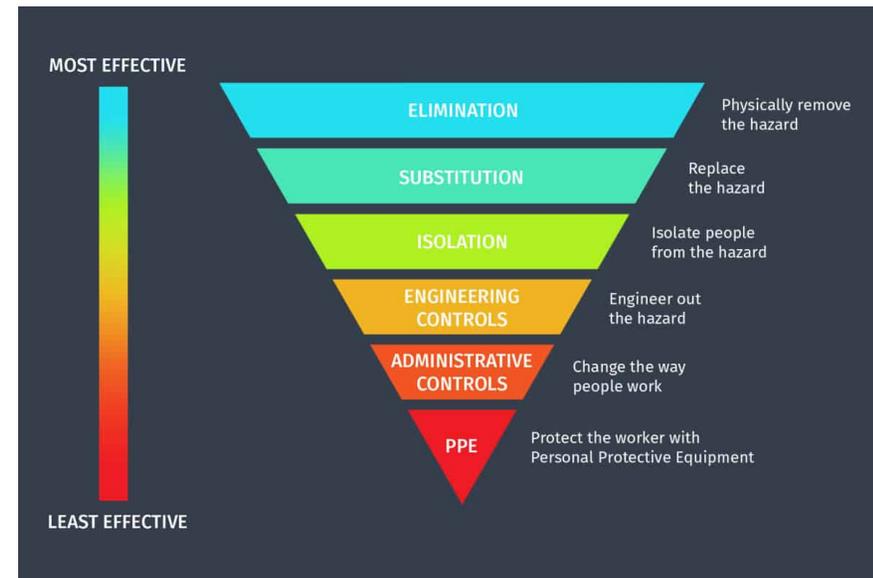


## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members

### Hazards and the Hierarchy of Controls Safety Message

The hierarchy of controls is a risk management tool used around the world to manage workplace hazards. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, (NIOSH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) use the following flow:

1. Elimination – Physically remove the hazard
2. Substitution – Replace the hazard
3. Engineering controls – Isolate people from the hazard
4. Administrative controls – Change the way people work
5. Personal protective equipment– Protect the worker with PPE



The safety hierarchy of controls pyramid is a systematic workflow to provide the most effective control measure to workplace hazards. The tool is used widely around the world and prescribes a method to always begin with eliminating any hazards that you identify in your workplace.

Where elimination is not practical, you should substitute tools and methods for less hazardous ones, or isolate the task from employees through barriers or screens. Alternatively, you can use engineering controls such as mechanical devices or shut off switches to protect employees from injury.

The top four controls of the hierarchy are the most effective in preventing workplace injury. The two lower-level controls, Administrative controls and PPE are the least effective at minimizing risk because they do not control the hazard at the source and rely on **human behavior and supervision**.