



***From My Desk : Duane Richardson,
IMEA Executive Director***

Supervisor Safety

The overall objective of a safety program is mishap prevention. If a mishap occurs, we investigate the mishap to prevent reoccurrence. Mishap prevention involves; identifying a hazard, evaluating the hazard and correcting, controlling or eliminating that hazard. Training is a critical element of mishap prevention. Supervisors play a critical role in mishap prevention and hazard awareness and identification.

Most mishaps are preventable, however, through ignorance or misunderstanding, many people have the common belief that mishaps are the inevitable result of unchangeable circumstances or fate.

That belief is untrue because it fails to consider the basic law of “cause and effect” to which mishaps are subject. Thus, mishaps do not occur without cause. Few mishaps are caused by equipment failure or malfunction; most mishaps are the direct result of some deviation from prescribed safe operating procedures. HUMAN error is cited as the most frequent cause of mishaps.

Q. How do we keep our employees and working conditions as safe as possible?

A. We include safety rules in our everyday workplace.

Safety Supervision requires you to identify hazards and apply appropriate and required safety rules and guidelines. Training employees to observe safety precautions helps them avoid preventable mishaps. An effective safety program depends on employee cooperation and supervisor involvement.

What you need to know about your duty to protect the health and safety of the workers you supervise.

If you’re a new supervisor – or even an experienced one – you may not realize how much responsibility you have in the workplace. Supervisors are legally required to ensure the health and safety of all workers under their supervision. Even if you’re not called a supervisor, if you instruct, direct, and oversee workers as they perform their duties, then you are responsible for their safety on the job. If a worker under your supervision is seriously injured or killed, you could be held responsible. And if the findings of an investigation indicate criminal negligence, the penalty could be very serious.

Do Your Due Diligence

It’s up to you as the supervisor to do your due diligence. This means that you need to do everything within reason to ensure the safety of your workers. *(Continued, Page 2)*

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(Continued)

You can prove your due diligence by keeping written records of training and supervisory duties. In an accident investigation OSHA officers may ask for proof of what you did to prevent workers from getting injured.

As a supervisor, you are responsible for the following:

- Make sure that you have the authority and ability to carry out your responsibilities.
- Make sure that your employer provides you with the information, instruction, training, and supervision you need to ensure the health and safety of your workers.
- Know, comply with, and enforce workplace health and safety regulations that apply to your workplace and the specific jobs you are supervising.
- Evaluate equipment to ensure that it is safe for use, and make sure workers operate it safely.
- Know the hazards associated with the jobs you are supervising and ensure that your workers are aware of all known or reasonably foreseeable hazards in the area.
- Consult and co-operate with your joint health and safety committee (or worker health and safety representative).
- Know your rights and ensure that your workers know their rights.

2023 IMEA Lineworkers Rodeo



The IMEA Indiana Lineworkers' Rodeo hosted by the City of Lawrenceburg & Lawrenceburg Municipal Utilities is the state's most energizing safety and training event. The only one of its kind for public power lineworkers in the state, the interactive, competitive event is designed to showcase the skills and knowledge of a lineworker in a fun and safe environment. The event is open to anyone who is a practicing lineworker in a municipally owned and operated electric utility and / or rural cooperative in Indiana and surrounding areas.

The rodeo features two levels of competition: journeyman team and apprentice. There are four events for apprentices, and four in the team category. Three of the four will be provided as mystery events with the fourth as Pull Top Rescue. We hope you will join us for our two-day event on Friday, September, 22nd & Saturday, September 23rd with a cookout and awards following the conclusion of the event.

Register Today! [www.imea.com / events](http://www.imea.com/events)

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