



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### **WINTER WORK: Understanding The Dangers of Wind Chill Safety Message**

Wind chill poses a serious threat to utility workers navigating the outdoors during the winter months, promoting the development of fast-moving, deadly health conditions. **An estimated 42 American workers die annually from exposure to temperature extremes,** including those linked to elevated wind chill levels, researchers for the Bureau of Labor Statistics found. Utility companies can avoid becoming a part of this disturbing statistic by equipping linemen with the knowledge and tools they need to safely work as the winter wind blows.

How can utilities protect field teams that may have to brave significant wind chills? Training is perhaps the most effective solution, according to OSHA. When workers understand the risks, they make sound field safety decisions. Even those who tend to push past initial discomfort and attempt to work through the cold might have second thoughts with all of the pertinent information in hand, including insight into cold stress and other serious conditions.