



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Safety & Listening Safety Message

Work sites are always filled with different sounds and noises. Every sound you hear is caused by other workers, mobile equipment, or vehicles on the site. The sounds you hear at work are vital clues for safety. Normal sounds will often become white noise to experienced workers. However, your brain should instantly recognize sounds that are out of the ordinary. Listening for safety is critical to avoiding hazards at work.

Some examples of how listening for safety can protect you include:

- A tool or piece of equipment may signal it is breaking down by a change in the normal operating sound.
- A worker looking around when hearing a back-up alarm or engine sound nearby.
- When you hear a sudden change in the background noise, you stop and check your surroundings.
- A hammer makes a “thud” sound instead of a “ding” sound, indicating damage to the hammer or the striking surface.

Every worker should condition themselves to be alert and check their surroundings when they hear advance warning sounds like these. Your safety depends on your ability to detect approaching danger. Hearing protection can make this more difficult, so you must learn to adapt to it.

Although it may be easier to see danger than it is to hear it, your ears are able to perceive warning signals from all around you. Your eyes are only good in the direction you are looking. Fine tune your ears and you can fine tune your exposure to danger and injury.