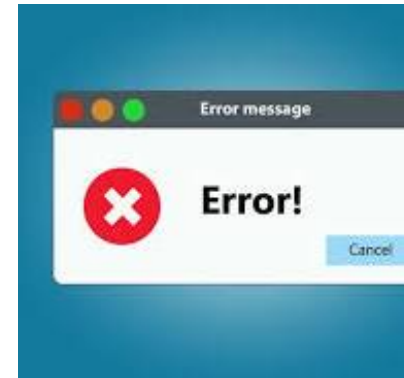




Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Was It An Accident Or Was It An Error Safety Message

What is an accident? Briefly, it is a sudden and unforeseen event. Given that definition, can we say that the Apollo fire that killed three astronauts on the launch pad, and the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, were accidents? Absolutely Not.

What do these events have in common? In each case, there were experts in charge and plenty of opportunities to anticipate problems. Experience should have told them to take corrective action long before the disastrous incidents took place. So why—in spite of all the warning signs—were these conditions allowed to exist? The answer is simple: The warning signs were overlooked. So ask the question again: “Were they accidents or were they errors?”

Think about what could go wrong before you act! If something minor goes wrong, this is a warning to stop! Consider what has gone away. Figure out what should be done to resolve the problem, then take care of it! Accidents are usually errors on someone’s part. They are not an incidental part of the job. If you accept the mindset that they are, accidents will occur.

This is your challenge: Think about what pitfalls may come up during work tasks. Recognize the early warning signs of things going wrong. Have the strength to stand up and say:

“Hold on a minute. Let’s think about this!”