



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Top 5 Utility Line Worker Hazards Safety Message

Electrical utility line work is dangerous, and there are many hazards that come along with this type of work.

Failure to identify job hazards

If an employee doesn't know the dangers of their job, they won't be able to protect against them. Both Raines and Vaughn found that employee failure to identify and grasp jobsite hazards has led to numerous electrical utility accidents in the past year.

Failure to use proper personal protective equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) plays a huge factor when it comes to workplace safety. Wearing protective equipment like proper gloves can mean the difference between a healthy hand and a hand burned from electrical contact.

Failure to use proper cover up equipment

In electrical work, cover up equipment is intended to both prevent employees from making accidental contact with energized parts or equipment, and to prevent accidental contact of energized conductors with the grounded surface of pole or crossarms.

Failure to protect against currents in grounded systems

Many linemen assume grounded systems are safe because they are grounded, but that's not always the case. As Vaughn explained it, utility linemen do a lot more transmission work at higher voltages these days than they did 10-15 years ago.

Failure to drive safely to and from the job

Many employees don't realize that driving to the job is part of the job. Too many accidents occur on the road, because workers are in a rush, complacent or preoccupied. To prevent driving accidents, employees need to keep their attention on the road and adhere to traffic safety laws. Being late to a job is not worth driving dangerously and risking injury, or worse.