



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Lightning Safety in Outdoor Work Environments

Outdoor workers across various industries face numerous hazards on the job site. One sometimes overlooked yet potentially deadly threat is lightning. A leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States, lightning strikes pose a significant risk to workers, surroundings and equipment. According to OSHA, in the U.S., over 300 people are struck by lightning every year, often causing victims injury, disability and even death. Understanding the dangers of lightning and implementing proper safety protocols, including the use of advanced detection technology, is critical for reducing risk and ensuring a safe working environment.

Lightning Safety Protocols

OSHA emphasizes the importance of emergency action plans for severe weather threats, including lightning. A crucial component of these plans is establishing procedures for monitoring weather conditions and alerting workers to threats.

Employers must take steps to educate workers about the dangers of lightning, train them to recognize the signs of an approaching storm and develop clear response procedures. These procedures should include seeking safe shelter and designating assembly points or check-in practices for all personnel once a lightning warning has been issued.