



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Hazard Identification Safety Message

#### Anticipate the Unexpected

#### The Importance of Early Hazard Identification

Recognizing hazards early—through regular safety observations—helps prevent accidents and injuries by addressing potential dangers before they escalate.

#### Incident Overview

Two weeks ago in Indiana, a lineman was performing a routine task: replacing a blown line fuse—something commonly done by both linemen and apprentices.

As the job began, one crew member took the pickup to start running the line. Meanwhile, the lineman set up the bucket and ascended to inspect the pole and check for any visible damage.

While lifting the cutout door, the tail unexpectedly flipped upward, making contact with the energized side of the cutout. This sudden contact energized the faulted line and caused a fireball that engulfed the lineman, resulting in serious burns to his face.

#### Key Takeaway

Always anticipate the unexpected. Even routine tasks can pose serious risks if potential hazards aren't identified and mitigated in advance.