



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Safety Message: The Cost of Carelessness

"The economic waste resulting from carelessness is appalling, but anyone who stops for a moment to consider the sorrow and desolation which is brought into thousands of lives each year by utter thoughtlessness must feel a new resolve to make a habit of 'Safety First.'"

– W.C. Durant, President of General Motors (1920)

That powerful message was shared over a century ago—105 years ago, in fact, and more than 50 years before the Occupational Safety and Health Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1970.

The truth in those words still holds today.

Think About It This Way:

What would we do if a plane crashed and 100 people died today?

What if it happened again tomorrow?

And again the day after?

We wouldn't just accept it—we'd shut down air travel until we figured out the problem. That kind of repeated loss would be unacceptable.

So why would we tolerate carelessness that leads to preventable injuries and deaths in our workplace?

A Shift in Mindset: Proactive vs. Reactive

To eliminate carelessness, we must stop thinking of safety as something we react to after something goes wrong. Instead, we must be proactive—constantly looking ahead, identifying risks, and acting before incidents occur.

Don't wait for a near miss to pay attention.

Don't assume someone else is responsible for fixing a hazard.

Don't think "it won't happen to me."

Final Thought

Carelessness isn't just a personal risk—it puts everyone around you in danger. Let's recommit to making safety a habit, not an afterthought. We owe it to ourselves, our coworkers, and our families to treat every task with the attention it deserves.