



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### **Recognized Versus Unrecognized Hazards – A Safety Message**

There are countless hazards in our workplaces and even at home—many of which can cause serious harm if not properly managed. Organizations invest significant time, effort, and money to train employees to recognize hazards as a key step in preventing injuries. But recognizing a hazard is only the first step. Acting on that recognition is just as critical.

We often assume that new employees are the most vulnerable to injury because they may not yet understand the hazards of their job. While this is true, there's another, often overlooked risk: experienced employees who have grown too comfortable or complacent around known hazards.

### **Which Is More Dangerous: Recognized or Unrecognized Hazards?**

This is a vital question to consider. While both pose risks, unrecognized hazards may actually be more dangerous because they can go unnoticed and unaddressed by everyone in the work area. These hazards leave employees unknowingly exposed, often with no protective measures in place.

The main objective of ongoing safety training and discussions is to sharpen hazard recognition skills. If employees can spot hazards, they can take the necessary steps to control or eliminate them—keeping both themselves and their coworkers safe.