



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Relying on Memory – A Safety Message

The human memory is remarkable—but it's far from perfect. While some people can recall tiny details from decades ago, others might forget where they left their keys five minutes ago. When it comes to safety in the workplace, this inconsistency is a serious concern.

Memory Is Not a Safety Control

Simply recognizing a hazard and making a mental note of it is not a mitigation strategy. If memory is the only thing standing between you and a hazard, then the hazard has not been properly addressed.

Relying on memory means trusting a system that is prone to distraction, fatigue, stress, and human error. Even the most experienced workers can forget critical details—especially during a busy or stressful day.

What You Should Do Instead

- Eliminate the hazard if possible.
This is always the most effective way to protect yourself and others.
- Use physical safeguards and controls.
Barriers, signage, lockout/tagout procedures, PPE, and safety checklists are all more reliable than memory alone.
- Document important safety information.
Writing it down, communicating it with your team, or marking it clearly on equipment helps everyone stay aware.
- Build habits and systems—not assumptions.
Safety should be proactive and built into the process—not something you "just try to remember."

Key Reminder:

Your memory is not a safety device. It can fade, fail, or falter—especially when you need it most.

Takeaway:

When it comes to hazards, don't leave safety to chance. Use concrete, visible, and reliable safeguards. By doing so, you protect yourself, your coworkers, and the integrity of the workplace.