



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Anchor Systems for Fall Protection Safety Message

Knowledge of anchor points is very important for linemen. Workers will connect their lifeline to an anchor, the secure connection point for a fall protection system. Your anchor point must be correctly installed and the right type to keep a lineman from potentially hitting the ground if a fall occurs. Depending on the type of work being done, there are three basic types of anchor systems that are commonly used.

First is the designed fixed support. These are load-related anchors specifically designed and permanently installed for fall protection. Next is temporary fixed support. These systems are designed to be connected to a structure. They require installation using specific instructions.

Second are existing structural features or improvised anchors. These are not designed to be used as anchor points and may need to be verified before use. It is important these anchor points are closely checked to ensure they will have the adequate capacity to serve as safe anchor points.

In 2014 OSHA passed fall protection regulations that require all utility workers to use fall protection when they climb above a height of 4 feet. These regulations also require body harnesses to be worn at all times by linemen, no matter their work surface. When a lineman does not use fall protection, they are putting themselves at risk for injury or death.