



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Backfeed Awareness Safety Message

What is Backfeed?

Backfeed occurs when voltage is present on a conductor or equipment even after it has been disconnected from its normal power source. This can create hazardous conditions and pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Precautions to Prevent Injury or Damage:

1. Always treat all conductors and equipment as energized.
Assume voltage is present until proven otherwise.
2. Wear rubber gloves and other appropriate PPE
Maintain protective gear until the conductors are verified to be "cut in the clear."
3. Test for voltage — and test again.
Always verify with an appropriate meter or voltage tester before touching any conductor.
4. Eliminate the source of backfeed where possible.
Identify and isolate all potential backfeed sources, including generators or interconnected systems.
5. Disconnect all secondary taps
Prevent backfeed through transformer secondaries or other interconnected circuits.
6. Remove all primary taps
Ensure no inadvertent connections remain that could allow voltage back into the system.
7. Test for voltage again.
Redundant testing is critical for safety.
8. Use Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) procedures as needed.
Secure and identify isolated sources to prevent re-energization.
9. Apply personal and/or system grounding.
Ground all de-energized lines and equipment to protect against accidental energization.

Remember: Safety is everyone's responsibility. When in doubt — test, ground, and protect.