



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Line of Fire Safety Message

Focus on identifying and avoiding positions where workers are at risk of being struck by, caught in, or caught between moving objects, tools, equipment, or vehicles. This is critical for electric linemen, who work around energized lines, vehicles, suspended loads, and hand tools at height.

1. Identify Line of Fire Hazards

- Are we working beneath suspended loads (tools, materials, bucket trucks)?
- Are there moving vehicles or equipment in the area?
- Are we using pressurized tools or hydraulic systems?
- Is there a risk of being pinned or crushed (e.g., between pole and bucket)?
- Are we working in drop zones or swing radiuses?

2. Mitigation Strategies

- Establish exclusion zones around equipment and beneath overhead work.
- Secure all tools when working at heights (use tool lanyards).
- Use spotters when backing or operating equipment.
- Communicate clearly using hand signals or radios.
- Position yourself "in the clear" — away from possible movement paths.

3. Review Equipment and Tool Safety

- Inspect rigging and lifting devices.
- Confirm bucket trucks, booms, and cranes are properly stabilized.
- Ensure all tools and hardware are in good condition and properly secured.

4. Crew Communication

- Assign a designated signal person.
- Review stop-work authority — anyone can call a halt if unsafe.
- Confirm everyone knows the movement plan of equipment or materials.

Key Questions to Ask the Crew:

- "Where is the line of fire on this job?"
- "Who is working overhead or beneath others?"
- "What will move — and who might be in its path?"
- "Do we have exclusion zones marked and enforced?"
- "Are we all clear on our safe positions during lifting or operating?"