



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Solar Backfeed Safety Message

Unlike engine-powered backup generators, green energy makes no telltale noise to alert workers to its presence and possible hazards. We encourage all employers to assess the risks related to backup energy sources and adopt effective storm-work hazard analysis, isolation and other protective procedures for worker safety.

Five Rules for Zero Contact

Let's imagine for a moment that a do-it-yourself customer installed his solar panels and equipment for off-grid use, such as when the power goes out. His installation was not inspected by an electrical inspector nor approved by the utility. While working on downed power lines, lineworkers must protect themselves from this type of incorrect solar installation just as they would from any distributed generation (e.g., an incorrect generator installation).

Lineworkers can protect themselves by always adhering to the five lifesaving rules for zero contact.

1. Use rubber gloves and sleeves.
2. Apply proper insulating material or coverup.
3. Use proper clearance procedures.
4. Test lines de-energized and apply personal grounds.
5. KEEP YOUR GLOVES ON