

Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Fighting PPE Complacency Safety Message

In the fast-paced world of utility work, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking, "This is just a quick job" or "I've done this a thousand times." These thoughts can lead to complacency and poor decision-making around proper personal protective equipment use, including flame-resistant and arc-rated apparel.

Many utility job tasks carry inherent risks, whether it's working near live electrical equipment or navigating challenging terrain. Regular training sessions serve as invaluable opportunities to reinforce safety protocols. These sessions should cover the correct use of PPE as well as delve into the rationale behind the need for it.

Additionally, familiarizing workers with the standards that their PPE must meet will enhance their comprehension of electrical safety guidelines and emphasize the critical role of PPE in mitigating risks. Simple reminders – like the fact that OSHA 29 CFR 1910.269 makes it mandatory for electrical utility workers to wear FR/AR apparel in certain environments – are also helpful.

Further, reminding workers of the potential consequences of PPE noncompliance underscores the gravity of safety lapses and the importance of adhering to PPE protocols. Electrical accidents, falls and other incidents can have severe and life-altering ramifications.

Combating PPE complacency demands concerted effort from workers at all levels of an organization.