

## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Stopping Work Safety Message

When there are hazards present or some other issue that interferes with being able to perform a work task safely, then it is important to feel comfortable to stop the work until it is safe to continue. Many companies stress the importance of being able to stop work without punishment, but there are many employees who do not feel comfortable doing this for many reasons.

#### Situations Where Stopping Work is Necessary

- When there is an unaddressed hazard.
- When the correct personnel are not a part of the task. For example- a company policy states that a spotter is needed while working on an aerial lift, and the spotter needs to leave the area. You need to stop work until the spotter returns.
- When you do not have the right tool or equipment for the job. Using tools not designed for the task can lead to an incident.
- When you do not understand the work task or procedures. Stop and get clarification for the task.
- When you do not have the correct knowledge or training to do a task safely.

These are just a few of the situations where stopping work is necessary. Individuals need to feel comfortable stopping work to address whatever the problem is to be able to complete the work safely and efficiently.

- What are some situations that could come up in your work today where stopping work is necessary?

- Do you feel comfortable stopping work? Why or why not?