



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



The Dangers of Distraction: Staying Focused in a High-Risk Environment

Working in a high-voltage environment means working in a high-risk environment. Doing so demands technical expertise, attention to detail and unwavering focus. When your mind wanders in such an environment – even for a split second – the consequences can be catastrophic.

Understanding the High-Risk Environment

Whether it's in a power generation plant, a substation, or a transmission or distribution setting, a high-voltage environment is inherently hazardous. Workers are routinely exposed to electrical potential that can cause severe electric shocks, arc flashes and burns. Equipment maintenance, troubleshooting, testing and repairs are tasks that require meticulous attention to detail and strict adherence to safety protocols.

The hazards of working on or near high-voltage equipment or lines without the right mindset are regularly reported as leading contributing factors to incidents. A momentary distraction due to personal issues, a lapse in attention caused by repetitive tasks or a false sense of security from routine familiarity can turn deadly.