



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Safety Message: Controlling Wire Tails

Purpose: To prevent injuries, equipment damage, and electrical contact incidents caused by uncontrolled or whipping wire tails during installation or maintenance.

1. The Hazard

- Wire tails can become dangerous when not secured and swing or whip due to tension release.
- They may contact energized lines or equipment.
- They can spring back when cut under tension.

2. Key Safety Controls

Before starting work:

- Conduct a job briefing—identify where wire tails will be and how they'll be controlled.
- Assign a dedicated observer when stringing or cutting conductors.
- Inspect and ensure proper tensioning equipment and grounds are in place.

During work:

- Maintain control of the tail using grips, tie-off points, or reels.
- Never stand in line with a conductor under tension.
- Use line guards and barriers near energized lines.
- Communicate clearly before cutting or releasing any conductor.

3. PPE Requirements

- Class-rated rubber gloves and sleeves.
- Eye and face protection.
- Flame-resistant clothing.

4. Key Takeaways

- Every wire tail must be under control at all times.
- Never assume a wire tail is safe just because it's not energized.
- Plan, communicate, and secure before cutting or spooling.

5. Crew Discussion Points

- Have we identified all potential wire tails in today's job?
- Who is responsible for maintaining control of each conductor?
- What's our plan if a wire tail becomes loose or unmanageable?