

Lockout/Tagout

Scenario—Affected Employees - Answer Key

During servicing and maintenance operations, the unexpected release of hazardous energy can cause serious injury. Frequently, these operations require an employee to place part of his or her body into the machinery's point of operation or to remove or bypass a guard.

Some examples of activities that could require lockout/tagout include lubrication, cleaning or unjamming machinery, making adjustments or tool changes, or installing equipment where the employee is at risk of injury from unexpected energization of the equipment.

It happened like this

Rodney had just arrived at work. His supervisor had mentioned the day before that some maintenance needed to be done on several machines in the area.

Rodney had noticed several employees from the maintenance department leaving as he was coming in. As he walked to his machine he noticed a "Do not remove" tag on the start button. Rodney had a lot of work to do and he couldn't be held up.

He looked around the machine and could find nothing out of the ordinary. The stack of parts that needed machining was sitting next to the machine, ready to go.

Rodney thought to himself, "I bet the maintenance guys forgot to take the tag off the start button."

His was going to call his supervisor and ask her what to do. However, it would take her at least 15 minutes to call him back. Rodney's next thought was to remove the tag and start working.

Stacy walked by and noticed Rodney take the tag off the machine.

"Rodney, what are you doing?"

"Maintenance left this tag on the machine. I saw them leaving for the day. I'm taking it off and running my parts."

"You better not. Did you call your supervisor?"

"No. It's going to take her too long to get back to me. I'm sure this tag was left on by mistake."



What are the issues?

- Lack of knowledge about lockout/tagout procedures
- Insufficient employee training
- Violation of company safety policies

What did maintenance do right?

- Notified supervisor of scheduled maintenance work to be completed
- Properly locked and tagged the equipment

What did Stacy do right?

- Noticed tag removal
- Warned Rodney against removing tag from the machine until he verified it was OK to start
- Asked if Rodney contacted his supervisor

What did Rodney do wrong?

- Didn't respect the lockout tag that was on the start button and he removed it
- Didn't call his supervisor to find out what was going on

What do you think should happen next?

- Rodney should contact his supervisor and find out more information about the scheduled maintenance.
- Stacy should report the violation.
- If Rodney removes the tag and starts his machine he should be terminated.
- Provide additional training on why lockout/tagout is necessary; authorized vs. affected employees, and the company's safety policy.



Training tips

OSHA regulations contain specific training requirements for affected employees. At 29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i)(B), the rule says that “each affected employee shall be instructed in the purpose and use of the energy control procedure.”

Because your employees operate or use machines to which lockout/tagout is applied or work in an area where lockout/tagout is performed, they need to understand:

- The procedures involved in lockout/tagout.
- The reasons for lockout/tagout.
- The dangers involved when interfering with lockout/tagout.

You may want to display or circulate energy isolating devices, locks, and tags that are used in your facility.

You could demonstrate the lockout/tagout procedure on a piece of equipment or review a piece of equipment, its isolation points, and devices used in the isolation and lockout procedures.

