

Other Employees

5-Minute Talk

Overview of topic

Many accidents occur when an employee is servicing equipment. Suddenly, the controls are bumped; the equipment starts; and the gears of the machine catch and pull the employee's arm into the equipment. The employee's arm was crushed. Another example is a worker who is scalded by hot water while cleaning the inside of a process tank—someone opened the hot water valve to the tank. Can these injuries be avoided? What is not being done to prevent these injuries?

When servicing or performing maintenance on equipment of machinery, the equipment must be prevented from unexpectedly starting or releasing stored energy. How is this done? The procedure for isolating the energy sources is called lockout/tagout. Lockout/ tagout procedures cover the recognition of hazardous energy sources, location of hazardous energy sources, and isolation and control of energy sources.

Employees who service and perform maintenance on the equipment in this facility are required to lockout/tagout equipment that needs servicing or maintenance. They use these procedures to avoid the dangers of unexpected startup or release of stored energy.

Employee working in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized, must be aware of the lockout/tagout procedure, devices used in lockout/tagout, and the prohibition of restarting or reenergizing equipment that has been locked or tagged out.

How does the lockout/tagout program apply employees?

ONLY the person who applies a lock or tag can remove it and reenergize the equipment.

All employees must be safely positioned or removed from the area before lockout/tagout devices are removed and the machine is reenergized.



Affected employees must be notified by the employer or authorized employee of the application and removal of lockout devices or tagout devices. Notification must be given before the controls are applied, and after they are removed from the machine or equipment.

Locks

- Lockout devices must be durable and substantial.
- Locks are standardized for ease of recognition.
- The lock must identify the person who applies it. This can be done with a tag.
- The use of someone else's lockout device is prohibited.

Tags

- Tags must be durable and substantial.
- Tags are standardized for easy of recognition including the print and format.
- The attachment means for a tag must be:
 - Non-reusable.
 - Attachable by hand.
 - Self-locking, and non-releasable with an unlocking strength of 50 pounds.
- The attachment means must be equivalent to a one-piece, all-environment-tolerant nylon cable tie.
- The tag's legend includes statements such as Do Not Start, Do Not Open, Do Not Close, Do Not Energize, or Do Not Operate.

Employee training

OSHA regulations contain specific training requirements for "other" employees. At 29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i)(C), the rule says that all other employees whose work operations are or may be in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized must be instructed about the procedure, and about the prohibition relating to attempts to restart or reenergize machines or equipment which are locked or tagged out.



Training tips

- Identify equipment in your facility that is subject to lockout/tagout procedures.
- You may want to display or circulate energy isolating devices, locks, and tags that are used in your facility.
- You could also show an actual piece of equipment that is locked or tagged out.

Where to go for more information

OSHA regulations at 29 CFR 1910.147, The control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout)

