



Lockout, Tag-out

Energy sources – including electrical, thermal, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical or other sources – in machines and equipment can be deadly. It is why locking out and tagging the machines and equipment is necessary to keep employees safe.

Locking Out, Tagging Can Prevent Hazardous Energy Injuries

Workers servicing or maintaining machines or equipment where the energy source is enabled could be shocked, burned, crushed, cut, amputated or killed.

At greatest risk from hazardous energy are an estimated 3 million electricians, machine operators and laborers who service equipment routinely. Failure to control hazardous energy accounts for nearly 10% of all the serious accidents in many industries, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Reduce Risk with Training, Practices

Foremost is to ensure employees observe proper lockout/tag-out procedures. Here are OSHA's recommendations:

- Develop, implement and enforce an effective tag-out program if equipment can't be locked out.
- Develop, implement and enforce an energy control program and procedures.
- Use devices to lockout equipment when they are being repaired or maintained.
- Inspect energy control procedures annually.
- If lockout devices are not available, use tags to alert employees when equipment or machinery is being repaired or maintained.
- Ensure that new or overhauled equipment is capable of being locked out.
- Only use the lockout/tag-out devices that are authorized for the specific equipment or machinery; make sure the lockout devices are durable, standardized and substantial, or the tags are clear.
- Be sure all lockout/tag-out devices identify the individual who has applied it.
- Establish a policy that allows only the employee who applied a lockout/tag-out device to remove it.
- Provide effective training to all employees working in or around equipment or machinery that could release hazardous energy, and be sure your lockout/tag-out procedures are covered.

Employee Training Should Cover:

- The employer's energy control program
- Elements of the energy control program that are relevant to the employee's duties or assignment
- Various requirements of the OSHA standards related to lockout/tag-out



OSHA offers an interactive Lockout/Tagout eTool that will help employers and workers understand the standard. The eTool is comprised of a tutorial, hot topics, and interactive case studies. Access the eTool online at: <https://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/lototraining/index.html>

Source: Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

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