
Don't Check Out! Lockout/Tagout!

If workers don't lockout/tagout (LOTO), statistically they could end up checking out, and we're not talking about the line at the grocery store. LOTO is serious stuff, and the end result is often nothing short of horrific. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), 120,000 workers are killed each year and another 50,000 are injured. Despite these facts, many people still think LOTO procedures are too much work and ignore them altogether.

Just do it!

No matter how long it takes, a little LOTO has to be better than losing life and/or limb. So if you work with any of the following devices or substances—electric, hydraulic, pneumatic (filled with compressed air), mechanical, heat and pressurized liquids, vapors and gases—you need to heed the LOTO laws.

Bottom line—LOTO is the law. And if that doesn't get you, then maybe this will... in August 2007, OSHA reported that a company in Ohio faced penalties to the tune of \$2.78 million as a result of ignored safety procedures that caused the death of one of their workers.

1. Identify and label all sources of hazardous energy.
2. De-energize all sources of hazardous energy.
3. Block or dissipate stored energy.
4. Lockout and tagout all forms of hazardous energy, including electrical breaker panels, control valves, etc.
5. Make sure that only one key exists for each of your assigned locks and that only you hold that key.
6. Verify by test, and/or observation, that all energy sources are de-energized.
7. Inspect repair work before removing your lock and activating the equipment.
8. Make sure that only you remove your assigned lock.
9. Make sure that you and your co-workers are clear of danger points before re-energizing the system.
10. Participate in LOTO training programs.

Source: National Institution of Occupational Health and Safety

Accompanying blurb:

This article was reproduced with permission from Accident Fund Insurance Company of America. Founded in 1912 and rated "A" (Excellent) by A.M. Best, Accident Fund offers low-cost group rates with a 5% up-front discount on workers compensation insurance as well as possible long-term dividends. Contact



Safety Article for Chamber or Group Use

Theresa Ross (517) 281-9813 or Beth Goodman (517) 202-5121 for more information.