

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Lockout/Tagout

Locking or tagging out equipment is a way to control hazardous energy.

What is hazardous energy?

Energy sources including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, or other sources in machines and equipment can be hazardous to workers. During the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment, the unexpected startup or release of stored energy can result in serious injury or death to workers.

What are the harmful effects of hazardous energy?

Workers servicing or maintaining machines or equipment may be seriously injured or killed if hazardous energy is not properly controlled. Injuries may include electrocution, burns, crushing, cutting, lacerating, amputating, or fracturing body parts, and others.

- A steam valve is automatically turned on burning workers who are repairing a downstream connection in the piping.
- A jammed conveyor system suddenly releases, crushing a worker who is trying to clear the jam.
- Internal wiring on a piece of equipment electrically shorts, shocking worker who is repairing the equipment.

Craft workers, electricians, machine operators, and laborers are among the 3 million workers who service equipment routinely and face the greatest risk of injury. Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 workdays for recuperation.

What can be done to control hazardous energy?

Proper lockout/tagout (LOTO) practices and procedures safeguard workers from hazardous energy releases.



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How to protect employees:

- ✓ Develop, implement, and enforce an energy control program.
- ✓ Use lockout devices for equipment that can be locked out. Tagout devices may be used in lieu of lockout devices only if the tagout program provides employee protection equivalent to that provided through a lockout program.
- ✓ Ensure that new or overhauled equipment is capable of being locked out.
- ✓ Use only lockout/tagout devices authorized for the particular equipment or machinery and ensure that they are durable, standardized, and substantial.
- ✓ Ensure that lockout/tagout devices identify the individual users.
- ✓ Establish a policy that permits only the employee who applied a lockout/tagout device to remove it.
- ✓ Provide effective training as mandated for all employees.

Specifics will vary, but the following procedures are a basic outline necessary to disable machinery or equipment to prevent hazardous energy release:

1. Scene survey – identify all potential hazards.
2. Notify affected people of LOTO and reason for it.
3. Shut machine down with normal procedures.
4. Isolate from source – turn off disconnects, breakers, valves; dissipated stored energy or restrain (blocking/ bleed-down...)
5. Lockout/tagout – use assigned lock/tag; key must remain with person who applied lock.
6. Test – operate normal controls to ensure equip will not operate; use meter to verify electrical circuits.
7. Proceed with work or repairs.
8. Remove all tools from work area, reinstall guards, & ensure everyone is clear.
9. Remove LOTO and restore energy.
10. Proceed with normal start up.

Sources:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/controlhazardousenergy/>
https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-lockout-tagout.pdf