

LOCKOUT TAGOUT

Have you ever been working somewhere when someone unexpectedly turns off the lights? Suddenly you're in total darkness and your immediate reaction is to let out a yell. This usually brings the light back on, along with an apology from the person who absent-mindedly flipped the switch. In a case like this, there's usually no harm done. But what if you were checking a machine and someone flipped a switch that started gears turning?

Keep Safety in Mind

This type of accident happens all too often. Each time, it points to the fact that shutting off machinery isn't enough—you must lock out the main switch and tag it as well.

Here are the top five things you need to know about lockout tagout:

1. Program and policy

Procedures must be developed, documented and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy.

2. Training

Training must be provided by employers to ensure that the energy control program is understood and that the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage, and removal of energy controls are acquired by employees.

3. Equipment

Use only approved lockout tagout devices.
Use correct tags that meet the OSHA standards.
Lockout tagout devices shall be removed by the employee who applied the device.

4. Procedure steps

1. Check detailed procedures for equipment.
2. Notify effected employees.
3. Shut down equipment properly.
4. Disconnect all primary energy sources.
5. Verify the lockout.

5. Periodic inspection

The employer shall conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirements of this standard are being followed.

Discussion

1. Which of our machines require lockout tagout?
2. Does everyone have all the right equipment?
3. Can anyone share an experience?

