

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Lockout/Blockout

OVERVIEW: Failure to lockout and or blockout machinery before working on it is a major cause of serious injury and death. Workers are electrocuted or lose fingers, hands and arms, or suffer severe crushing injuries because machinery is inadvertently turned on while it is being maintained, repaired or adjusted. These injuries can be prevented by the establishment and use of an effective lockout/blockout program.

TALKING POINTS:

- Locking out and blocking out are the only sure ways to prevent accidental start-up of machinery or equipment.
 - Locking/blockout means that any energy source, whether it is electrical, hydraulic, mechanical, compressed air, or any other source that might cause unexpected movement, must be disengaged or blocked, and electrical sources must be de-energized and locked, or positively sealed in the off position.
 - All maintenance personnel should be issued a suitable lock (or locks) with the individual worker's name and other identification on it and each worker should have the only key to the lock.
 - Steam, air, and hydraulic lines should be bled, drained, and cleaned out and there should be no pressure in these lines or in the reservoir tanks.
 - Any mechanism under load or pressure, such as springs, should be released and blocked.
 - Each person who will be working on the machinery should put a lock on the machine's lockout device(s) and each lock must remain on the machine until the work is completed. Only the worker who placed the lock should remove his/her lock.
 - All energy sources which could activate the machine must be locked out.
- The main valve or main electrical disconnect must be tested to be sure that the power to the machine is off.
 - Electrical circuits must be checked by qualified persons with proper and calibrated electrical testing equipment. An electrical failure could energize the equipment, even if the switch is in the off position. CAUTION: Return disconnects and operating controls to the off position after each test.
 - Attach accident prevention tags which give the reason for placing the tag, the name of the person placing the tag, how he/she may be contacted, and the date and time the tag was placed. No one removes the tag without proper authority.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What does lockout/blockout mean? (Answer: Method of preventing accidental start-up of equipment or machinery.)
2. What are the types of equipment that should be locked out? (Answer: Any equipment that has an energy source.)
3. When should equipment be locked out? (Answer: Before working on it)
4. Who can remove a lock from the machine? (Answer: Only the person who placed the lock.)
5. Which energy sources should be locked out? (Answer: Any energy source that could activate a machine.)
6. Who should check the electrical circuits to make sure that the power to the machine is off? (Answer: Qualified person)

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