

The theme this month is Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout Tagout Tryout (LOTOTO)

Employees and contractors at PPI member company facilities, on a daily basis, engage in the control of hazardous energy (LOTO) for the purpose of performing repairs on many different types of machinery and equipment in the workplace. OSHA standard 1910.147, Control of Hazardous Energy – lockout/tagout has been one of the most impactful standards in preventing serious injury in the workplace. OSHA estimates that this standard alone may prevent up to 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries annually.

By way of background, from October 2019 through September 2020, Control of Hazardous Energy was the sixth most frequently cited OSHA standard. Statistically, considering calendar year 2019, 5,333 fatalities occurred in industry. Of that number seventeen involved control of hazardous energy and another one hundred and two life-altering injuries occurred. These were accidents that resulted in amputations, fractures, and crush type injuries.

Some of the most common mistake that occur when controlling hazardous energy include:

1. Failure to de-energize
2. Failure to establish a zero-energy state. For example, the presence of stored energy via pressure build up in liquid lines.
3. Inadequate training.
4. Lack of equipment specific LOTO procedures.
5. Misuse of locks and keys. (Use of a master key to remove locks)

What must we as PPI member companies do to prevent a serious injury or fatality due to LOTO

1. Develop, implement, and enforce an energy control, lockout/tagout program. Within LOTO program:
 - a. Establish procedures for removal of locks.
 - b. Establish procedures group lockout.
 - c. Establish a policy that only the employee who places a lock can remove it.
 - d. Establish a procedure for removal of an abandoned lock – contacting the owner.
 - e. Establish a procedure for how outside contractors will engage in LOTO on site.
 - i. Ensure contractors provide their energy control program for review.
2. Testing (tryout) to make sure all isolations systems are in place and working
3. Clearly define maintenance troubleshooting steps
4. Tagout can be used, only if the tagout program provides employee protection equivalent to that provided by lockout.
5. Ensure that lockout and tagout devices are identified for LOTO use only and are standardized (i.e., all one color), durable and substantial.
 - a. Locks and tags must be identified with the person applying them.
6. Provide training to both authorized and affected employees.
 - a. Confirm knowledge of authorized employees.
7. Develop equipment specific lockout procedures.
8. Ensure equipment and machinery is capable of being locked out.
9. Establish procedures for shift-to-shift transfer of locked out equipment.
10. Audit the energy control procedure annually.
11. Audit the use of the energy control procedure and address deficiencies. (may require retraining)

SAFETY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2021

Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Background on this process and the template are attached for your reference. Questions should be directed to David Fink at dfink@plasticpipe.org. We look forward to your company's participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.

Safety Minute of the Month: LOTO AUDIT FOR SAFETY!!



Auditing energy control procedures is an essential component of an effective program. A good audit occurs in two parts. Part one is an annual review of the LOTO procedure to ensure that the procedure meets the expectations to safeguard employees and contractors. Part two is to audit the application of the procedure on the shop floor. This second part is most critical as it serves to identify any changes required in the procedure and it uncovers miss-application of the LOTO procedure by authorized employees. If miss-applications are identified, the topics can be addressed during the annual re-training of authorized employees to ensure consistency in the future. If the miss-application is of a serious nature, equipment specific training should occur as soon as possible.

Auditing should include documentation of each evaluation. Checklists are very helpful for documentation purposes. Employees who are authorized or other subject matter experts should participate as auditors. It can be very beneficial for authorized employees from one part of the operation to participate in audits in other parts of the organization. It is also beneficial to set a schedule over a period of time so that you capture all equipment that requires auditing.