

Lockout/Tagout



What is Lockout/Tagout?

- Lockout is a procedure that prevents the release of hazardous energy. It usually involves the use of a lock or locks to make machinery or equipment inoperable or to isolate an energy source.
- Tagout or tagging tells others that the device is locked out, who has locked it out, and why.

Serious and fatal accidents have occurred when people assumed that electricity or machinery was turned off when it was not.

The Dangers of Hazardous Energy

The purpose of de-energization and lockout is to prevent the release of an energy source that could potentially activate moving parts. An energy source that could cause injury or fatality to workers is considered hazardous energy. There are many types of hazardous energy:

- Kinetic energy
- Chemical energy
- Potential energy
- Thermal energy
- Electrical energy
- Radiation

FSANL offers Lock-out/Tagout Training

When is Lockout/Tagout Required?

Lockout/tagout is required whenever workers are exposed to hazardous energy. For instance, if machinery could unexpectedly activate or if the unexpected release of an energy source could cause injury, the energy source must be isolated and controlled. Some activities that may require lockout/tagout include clearing jams, modification, maintenance, and inspection.

Other Important Information

- Employers must ensure that every worker who is required to lockout machinery or equipment has access to personal locks.
 - The worker must keep the key to their personal lock in their possession. This will ensure that only the worker is able to remove the lock when work is completed.
- Each lock used must also contain a warning tag. The warning tag should indicate the person who applied it, date, and the equipment being controlled.
- The lock should ONLY be removed by the person who installed it. If this is not possible, the matter should be referred to the supervisor. Before removing the lock, the supervisor must:
 - Make every effort to contact the employee who installed their personal lock;
 - Ensure that the equipment can be operated safely before removing;
 - Ensure that locks that are not in active use are removed from equipment and;
 - Ensure that the employee is notified as soon as possible that their personal lock has been removed.