

SEMPER SAFE

Lockout/Tagout: Why is “Control of Hazardous Energy” So Important?

....Because it's deadly, that's why!! There are approximately three million workers in the United States today that face extreme risks from uncontrolled energy when servicing machinery. Typical non-lethal injuries include fractures, lacerations, contusions, amputations, puncture wounds, electric shock, and falls. The average lost time for injuries runs approximately 24 days. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that approximately 120 fatalities and approximately 28,000 serious and 32,000 minor injuries each year could be prevented if an Energy Control Program was implemented and proper lockout/tagout procedures at job sites were enforced.

The “fatal five” main causes of lockout/tagout injuries are:

- Failure to stop equipment.
- Failure to disconnect from power source.
- Failure to dissipate (bleed, neutralize) residual energy.
- Accidental restarting of equipment.
- Failure to clear work areas before restarting.

The USMC's written policy and procedures are clearly defined in NAVMC DIR 5100.8 and also in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard 29CFR1910.147. Procedures are reviewed periodically to evaluate this standard practice instruction or when changes occur to 29 CFR 1910.147. This written program will be communicated to all personnel that are affected by it. Follow the below steps to ensure your area of concern is in compliance.

- Ensure a facility evaluation has been accomplished to identify tools, equipment or work processes that may require Lockout/Tagout procedures.
- If so, each piece of equipment or machinery has its own Lockout/Tagout procedures which highlight any unique steps involved in the shutdown.
- When using Lockout/Tagout procedures, always remember the “one lock-one key” concept. The only person that should have a key to the lock is the person that installed that lock. This is especially important in circumstances where the power source is in another room or not visible to the individual performing maintenance.
- Personnel who are required to utilize Lockout/Tagout procedures can obtain formal classroom training through the Energy Control Program Manager at Base Safety Safety or during annual refresher training that is required to be performed by supervisors.

Leaders & Supervisors, you are responsible for the safety of your personnel. It is your duty to ensure that a Lockout/Tagout program is in place and in use when required. Preventing Lockout/Tagout mishaps can be accomplished by applying Operational Risk Management and keen knowledge by all involved in the program. For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer or Base Safety Representative.