

The Control of Hazardous Energy

Lockout/Tagout Saves Lives

Safety Example

Let's take a look at one employee's story of an injury related to lockout/tagout:



An employee at Orange Bakery Inc. was assigned the task of performing maintenance on a mechanical roller machine. As the employee was cleaning the roller, the equipment started up and his right hand was pulled into the moving parts, crushing his hand. The incident investigation revealed that the machine was not locked out and no procedures were in place to provide inst.ing En-SZMCID BDC BT...tion revEsation re provide inst.ing En-SZMC employ...spit...

Turn off, block, or bleed energy sources on the equipment and apply your lock or locks in a group lockout scenario. OSHA identifies the seven energy sources as follows – electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal, and other.

- **Verify Isolation and Perform Maintenance:** Prior to starting work, you must always verify successful energy isolation by trying to start up the equipment you are about to work on. Once that has been verified, you may begin your work.
- **Release From Lockout and Restore Energy:** After you finish the work and before you remove your lock, make sure all tools and nonessential items are removed from the area, equipment components are intact, notify all others in the area, then remove your lock and restore energy to the equipment.

Tips for Talking to Your Team

- **Preparation is Key:** Take an inventory of the lockout/tagout devices in your shop. Do you have everything you need? Think about the equipment that you or your employees work on. What procedure(s) do you need to have?
- **Stay Positive:** If someone is unsure of where an energy source is or how to properly isolate it, take time to explain the process to them.
- **Share a Story, Ask for a Story:** Story-telling is a powerful method to convey information. Stories from your employees make the topic even more relatable.

Safety at Home – Keep Your Hands to Yourself

Each year, nearly 1,000 people are injured by their garbage disposals. It is recommended that you use batch-feed disposals because they will not operate unless a drain cover is secured in place. If you have a continuous-feed disposal, always avoid sticking your fingers or utensils into a disposal, even if it is off. The only safe way to remove a jam is to turn off a disposal and either unplug it or switch the circuit breaker to the off position.

Replacing light fixtures in your home is more dangerous than you may think. At home, people perform tasks such as replacing light fixtures, thermostats, etc. It is important to always disconnect the power and verify that there is no electricity running to the light fixture before beginning any work. Be sure to let family members know when and where you are working so they do not flip the breaker to the on position accidentally.

For Additional Information

Please contact [Gwen Butler](#), Director of Environmental Health and Safety, at 847.491.4936 with any questions. Risk Management Services can be reached at 847.491.5610.

Do you or your team have a safety story you'd like to share? Contact Risk Management Services at gwen.butler@northwestern.edu for details.