

Safety-Gram

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Lockout / Tagout

WHAT DOES LOCKOUT / TAGOUT MEAN?

Lockout / tagout (LOTO) is a set of procedures that ensure equipment is **shut down, inoperable, and de-energized**. This allows maintenance and repair work on the system to be **performed safely**.

Any workplace activity involving equipment that could lead to the **accidental release of hazardous energy** requires the use of LOTO procedures. "Hazardous energy" includes **not only electricity, but other forms of energy such as pneumatic pressure, hydraulic pressure, or gas**. The purpose of LOTO procedures is both to **prevent exposure to this energy**, and **prevent harm caused by anything that could be moved by that energy** (e.g. a pneumatic press accidentally being activated).



The Importance of Lockout / Tagout Procedures

The use of LOTO procedures is considered a **critical aspect of workplace safety** in any occupational setting in which workers come into **direct contact** with machinery or workplace equipment. Accidents which can be prevented by LOTO procedures include:

- Electrical accidents
- Crushing
- Lacerations
- Fires and explosions
- Chemical exposure



HAZARDOUS ENERGY CAN BE DEADLY

Performing maintenance on machinery can be very dangerous. People need to know that **maintenance is being performed** so that machinery **isn't turned on** and **no electrical current is traveling through the machine** while someone is working.

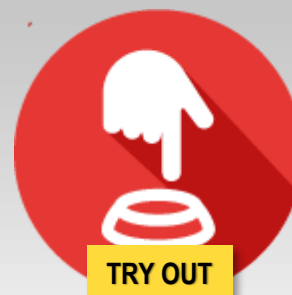
Properly communicating that equipment is being serviced and **putting safety measures in place** to ensure that equipment isn't turned back on until service is completed is **integral to avoiding accidents**.



- **Place a lock** to isolate the circuit and prevent it from being turned on.
- Only the **employee performing the work** should place the lock.
- Only the **employee performing the work** should remove the lock.
- **Multiple employees** will result in **multiple locks** on the same circuit.



- **Large tags** are placed on the lock(s) to make them more visible.
- These tags should provide **more information** about the work being performed and who is performing it.
- Always follow the **exact protocol** for tagout at your mine site.



- **Never assume** that when you have locked out a circuit that it is off.
- Always verify a lockout **by testing the equipment** and **checking** for any potential stored energy sources before beginning maintenance work.

Always follow Lockout / Tagout / Try Out procedures on your mine site.