



MONTANA MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL AUTHORITY

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RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

Please distribute to all appropriate personnel and post in a conspicuous place.

Date: June 27, 2023

RM Bulletin #07-23

To: MMIA Member-Owners

From: MMIA Risk Management

RE: Lockout Tagout - Safely Controlling Hazardous Forms of Stored Energy

What is stored energy and how can it be controlled?

Stored energy comes in many different forms including but not limited to electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, and thermal. During the servicing and maintenance of machinery or equipment employees are faced with the challenge of controlling the hazardous source of stored energy so that work can be conducted and completed in a safe manner. The unexpected startup or release of stored energy can result in serious injury or death to workers.

What's your responsibility?

Lockout tagout (LOTO) policies and procedures safeguard workers from the unexpected release of hazardous stored energy. LOTO procedures are designed to isolate or shut off machines and equipment from their power sources so that employees can perform servicing or maintenance work safely. OSHA's general industry standard, **29 CFR 1910.147**, outlines the specific requirements and provisions for safely controlling and isolating hazardous energy. Developing, implementing, training, and enforcing LOTO policies is pivotal for protecting employees from an unexpected release of energy.

- Establish, implement, train, and enforce LOTO policies and procedures.
- Ensure workers understand and can follow applicable LOTO policies and procedures.
- Train all employees involved in **or** working in an area where energy control procedures are utilized on the purpose, function and restrictions of the LOTO policies.
- Train employees authorized to perform LOTO on machines or equipment on the recognition of hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy, and the means and methods of isolating and controlling the energy prior to the start of any work being conducted.
- Review LOTO policies and procedures at least annually and update as needed.
- Retrain employees on LOTO procedures when changes have been made to existing energy control methods and periodically to maintain proficiency.

We are here to help!

If your municipality needs assistance evaluating and updating existing LOTO policies, or creating LOTO policies from the ground up, we are here to help! Contact your MMIA risk management team for additional information and resources at riskmgmt@mmia.net or 800-635-3089 option 0.

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