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KSU Facilities Safety Bulletin

Purpose of Locks and Tags

In addition to ensuring that a machine has been isolated or disconnected from its power source, lock and tag procedures establish safe boundaries to protect workers. Locks and tags serve different purposes, however, and should be used accordingly.

November Vivid Courses:

All:
Lockout Tagout
Cold Stress

By themselves, tags cannot sufficiently prevent an individual from starting a piece of equipment while another individual is servicing it. Because of this, tags should only act as temporary warnings until the hazardous equipment can be properly locked.

Tags must be securely attached, legible and understandable. They must be made of materials that can withstand the environmental conditions they may encounter, such as rain or snow, and they must bear the name of the authorized person placing the tag on the equipment. If possible, tags should be fastened to the same point as the lock. If not possible, the tag must be near the lock and immediately obvious.

Locks serve as barriers to keep equipment from starting up and injuring someone who may be working on that piece of machinery. They must hold the energy isolating devices in a “safe” or “off” position. Locks used for isolating energy sources are required to be dedicated, marked, and not used for any other purpose. Locks should be inspected to ensure they are standardized and durable.

Each lock must be keyed differently so no more than one person’s key will open it. Locks and tags must never be ignored or removed by anyone other than the individual who placed them.

When it is not possible to lock a de-energized energy source, only a tag may be used, but only if there is another way to ensure that no one can accidentally energize the system. The identity of the person who placed the tag must be described on the tag. This usually includes the person’s name and contact information, such as a phone number.

Tags associated with lockout/tagout activities are red, to communicate ‘danger’. They may have different warnings printed on them, such as ‘Do Not Operate’, ‘Do Not Start’, ‘Do Not Open’, ‘Do Not Close’, or ‘Do Not Energize’. Both locks and tags must be constructed to withstand the environment in which they are used.

Source: https://vividlearningsystems.com/courses/osha/lock-and-tag

How cold is too cold?

When the body is unable to warm itself, cold related stress may result. This may include tissue damage and possibly death.

Four contributing factors:

- Cold Air Temperatures
- High Velocity Air Movement
- Dampness of the Air
- Contact with Cold Water or Surfaces

Wind chill is the combination of air temperature and wind speed. For example, when the air temperature is 40°F, and the wind speed is 35 mph, your exposed skin receives conditions equivalent to the air temperature being 11° F. While it is obvious that below freezing conditions combined with inadequate clothing could bring about cold stress, it is also important to understand that it can also be brought about by temperatures in the 50’s coupled with some rain and wind.

Source: https://vividlearningsystems.com/courses/osha/cold-stress-prevention