

Hazard Summary: Electrocution in the Workplace

A worker was electrocuted and seriously injured during the cleaning of the work bay drainage sump. The worker did not lock out/tag out the sump pump. They had cleaned the work bay for many years without an incident.

Safe Work Practices: De-energization and Lockout

Because of the hazards of working with powered equipment, the first choice is to de-energize and lockout the equipment before performing any work. Deenergizing and locking out prevents the release of energy that could cause injury or death. Locks are used to make sure no one accidentally turns on the equipment while workers are performing maintenance on it, and de-energizing removes stored energy remaining in the equipment.

Maintenance is any work that keeps machinery or equipment in a safe operating condition. This includes installing, repairing, cleaning, and lubricating equipment, as well as clearing obstructions to the normal flow of material.

What are the basic steps of locking and tagging out a system?

- 1. Identify the machinery or equipment that needs to be locked out
- 2. Notify all affected employees
- 3. Equipment shutdown
- 4. Isolation of system from hazardous energy
- 5. De-energization removal of residual stored energy
- 6. Lockout/Tag out
- 7. Verify isolation
- 8. Perform Maintenance or Service Activity
- 9. Remove Lockout/Tag out devices

Training

• The employer must develop (with the assistance of the workers) safe work procedures for the machines, equipment, and processes in the worksite.

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- The employer must ensure that workers are trained on the lockout/tag out process, are performing maintenance or service, and provide required PPE.
- The worker must report to their supervisor any problems or hazards associated with the lockout/tag out procedures, the equipment, or the lockout/tag out process.

What the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Says:

Section 12.(a)

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations (Nunavut and the NWT) An employer shall, in respect of a work site provide and maintain systems of work and working environments that ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, the health and safety of workers.

Section 147.(1)

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations (Nunavut and the NWT) Subject to section 148 (Maintaining Machines in Motion), an employer shall, before a worker undertakes the maintenance, testing, repair or adjustment of a machine other than a power tool, ensure that the machine is locked out and remains locked out during that activity unless doing so puts a worker at risk.

Section 147.(3)

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations (Nunavut and the NWT) An employer shall

- (a).provide a written lockout process to each worker who is required or permitted to work on a machine to which subsection (1) applies; and
- (b) if the lockout process uses a lock and key, issue to that worker a lock that is operable only by that worker's key.

Section 10.21

Mine Safety Regulations (Nunavut and NWT)

The manager shall develop a lock-out procedure for each mechanical or electrical equipment system.

Canadian Standard (CSA) Z460-05 (R2010) "Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout and Other Methods" contain further information.