

Lockout/Tagout*



is working on it, which could cause anything from no injury at all to a fatality, depending upon the circumstances. Compliance with the LOTO standard prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.



Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) is shorthand for the Cal/OSHA standard §3314. The Control of Hazardous Energy for the Cleaning, Repairing, Servicing, Setting-Up, and Adjusting Operations of Prime Movers, Machinery and Equipment, Including Lockout/Tagout.

The lock system assigns a lock to each user that he or she will apply to the power source so that only he or she can turn the power back on. A tag can also be used to identify the user and to provide a warning. Tags can be used alone but are not nearly as effective or foolproof as using them in conjunction with locks.

LOTO is a safety procedure used to identify the power source of each piece of equipment and machinery and assign a method of de-energizing the machinery and equipment; thus assuring the power source remains off during maintenance and servicing.

The need for this standard came about because maintenance or service workers would turn off the source of power, let's say electricity at the circuit breaker box, before working on a machine and then go somewhere else to work on the machine. Some well-meaning employee might walk by the circuit breaker box and notice that one of the circuits is flipped off and decide it's a good idea to flip it back on. That starts the machine back up while someone



**This information is not considered full training on LOTO, but as information only to define LOTO.*