The Low Down on Lockouts

Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 workdays for recuperation.

Put the plan in action

- Attach locks with warning tags to indicate the date, purpose and length of the lockout
- Use uniquely keyed locks so employees can't remove each other's locks
- Test machinery after the lockout to be sure all energy sources have been secured
- Return equipment to service only after an established start-up procedure

Know the plan

- Be aware of when lockouts need to occur
- Identify potential energy sources—simply disconnecting the main power switch isn't enough
- Find and tag energy isolating devices such as a circuit breaker or gate valve
- The plan needs to be clearly communicated

Refine the plan

- Train employees on how to correctly apply locks and tags to equipment
- Review your lockout program annually to make sure its effective
- Distribute updates whenever lockout procedures change

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