The Low Down on Lockouts

✓ 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

✓ 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

✓ 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

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