



TAILGATE SAFETY

Company: _____ Date: _____

HEAVY EQUIPMENT – LOCKOUT/BLOCKOUT

OSHA Fatal Fact: A truck driver was crushed and killed between the frame and dump box of a dump truck. Apparently, a safety “overtravel” cable attached between the truck frame and the dump box malfunctioned by catching on a protruding nut of an air brake cylinder. This prevented the dump box from being fully raised, halting its progress at a point where about 20 inches of space remained between it and the truck frame. The employee, apparently assuming that releasing the cable would allow the dump box to continue upward, reached between the rear dual wheels and over the frame, and disengaging the cable with his right hand. The dump box then dropped suddenly, crushing his head.

If employees of a company are required to perform hazardous maintenance or repair of machines and equipment, a formal Lockout/Blockout Program must be developed and implemented. This program must include machine-specific procedures for shutdown and re-energizing equipment, and training for “affected” employees (i.e. those who operate, service or work near the equipment in question).

Employees that have not received the appropriate training, and/or is not authorized, must never attempt to perform service on equipment.

These procedures must be followed during the servicing or maintenance of machines, to avoid the “unexpected start up of the machinery or equipment, or the release of stored energy, which could cause injury to employees”.

Procedures will vary, depending upon (1) whether the source of hazardous energy is electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, thermal, or chemical, and (2) how many employees are affected. Nevertheless, all employees should be familiar with our Lockout/Blockout procedures.

The following SIX STEPS are a review of basic steps for safely de-energizing equipment:

1. Clear all personnel to safety
2. Clear away tools and materials from the equipment
3. Isolate all the equipment's energy sources
4. Use Lockout devices following written procedures
5. Release or restrain any stored energy by grounding, blocking, bleeding down, etc.
6. Make sure that the area is clear of all personnel, then test the equipment to make sure that it will not operate.

Restoring Equipment to Service:

1. Clear all personnel to safety
2. Make sure all equipment components are intact, including safety guards and devices
3. Remove each lockout device using the correct removal sequence
4. Make a visual check before restoring energy to make sure that everyone and everything is clear of the equipment
5. Verify that equipment controls are in neutral.

Training Tips: a) Illustrate lockout/blockout procedure on a specific piece of equipment, b) Have lockout/blockout supplies available to show to employees.



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