Alaska Chapter NECA

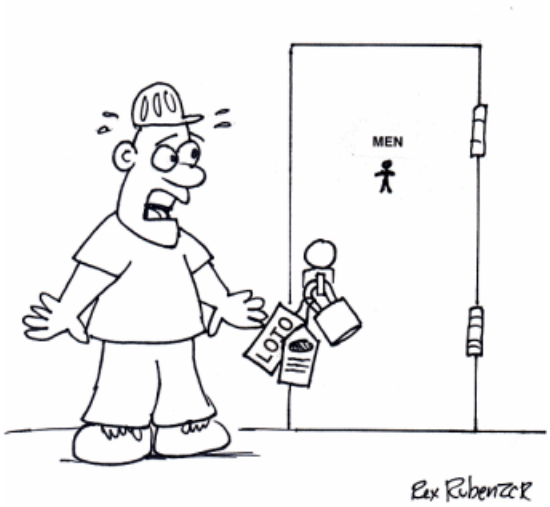
August 25, 2006
Alaska Chapter, NECA www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

September 4	**Labor Day**
September 5	**Anchorage JATC**
September 12	**Safety Committee**
September 13	**Board Meeting / Membership Meeting**
October 1	**Steve's 11th Anniversary with NECA**
October 7-10	**NECA Convention in Boston**

Tool Box Talks

September 04, 2006	**Personal Protective Equipment**
September 11, 2006	**PPE: Rubber**
September 18, 2006	**Responding to Your Customer's Unsafe Acts**
September 25, 2006	**Safety 101: General Guidelines**



Lockout/tagout: Getting back to basics

OSHA statistics show that six percent of all deaths in the workplace result from the unexpected activation of a machine or other piece of equipment during maintenance or other servicing. In addition, more than 25,000 work days are lost each year because of injuries in similar situations.

Because of the increase of injuries related to the unexpected activation of machinery, OSHA developed the Lockout/Tagout regulation.

This regulation requires employers to develop procedures for isolating energy sources when servicing or maintaining their equipment and machinery. The purpose of the standard is to prevent injuries from the unexpected release of energy.

Understanding lockout/tagout

Lockout/tagout is a warning and prevention system for unexpected start-up and release of stored energy.

Two terms which directly relate to this system are:

- **Lockout** – The placement of a device that blocks the flow of energy from a power source to a piece of equipment.
- **Tagout** – The process of attaching a tag to a disconnect switch or other energy isolating device to warn others not to restore energy to the tagged equipment.

When performing lockout/tagout on equipment and machines, the operators and the people working in the area need to be informed that lockout/tagout is being applied and servicing is being done on the equipment and machines.

When locking out the energy source is impossible, tagging the equipment may be the best procedure.

Employees affected

Lockout/tagout involves three types of employees with different levels of responsibility - authorized, affected, and other as follows:

- **Authorized** – Employees who perform the servicing, maintenance, and set-up of equipment or machinery and apply the locks and tags to this equipment.
- **Affected** – Employees who operate or use the equipment or machines which are locked/tagged out when serviced, maintained, or set-up.
- **Other** – Employees whose work operations are or may be in an area where energy control procedures may be utilized (they are neither affected nor authorized employees).

Lockout/tagout procedures

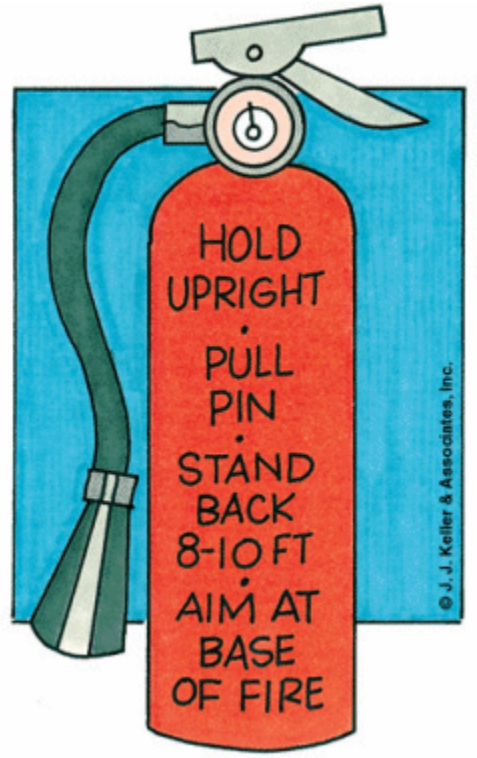
Each piece of equipment or machine needs its own lockout/tagout procedure. The procedure must include:

1. Preparing for shutdown.
2. Shutting down the machine or equipment.
3. Isolating the machine or equipment from the energy source.
4. Applying the lockout/tagout device to the energy-isolating equipment.
5. Verifying the isolation of the machines or equipment prior to starting work.
6. Releasing all potentially hazardous stored or residual energy.

The procedure should include the steps for placement, removal, and transfer of lockout/tagout devices.

The lockout device itself must be durable and substantial, identify the person who applied it, and should only be removed by the person who applied it.

After using a procedure for awhile we tend to sidestep or pass over steps. We tend to ignore minor changes in processes or machinery without determining if they affect energy control procedures. Reviewing lockout/tagout basics is a good way to avoid becoming complacent.



Learn to use fire extinguishers safely

If a fire starts, you don't have time for on-the-job training. In order to safely use an extinguisher, you should know how to:

- Recognize the hazards of a fire,
- Determine if the fire is small enough for an extinguisher to be effective,
- Select the correct type of extinguisher, and
- Use the fire extinguisher effectively.

Above all, when a fire is first detected, the fire alarm should be activated, and employees should evacuate according to the emergency action plan (EAP).

Stay safe

It isn't always safe to use an extinguisher. Do not attempt to fight a fire if any of the following conditions exist:

- A fire extinguisher isn't "readily accessible" — don't go looking for an extinguisher and expect the fire to stay small until you return;
- You aren't sure if the extinguisher is the right type for the fire;
- You aren't sure how to use the extinguisher;
- The fire is already smoky, hot, or is spreading rapidly; or
- Your escape path is threatened or blocked — don't climb over equipment or potentially trap yourself in a tight space to reach the fire.

Fight the fire

It may be safe to use an extinguisher if all of the following conditions have been met:

- Someone is calling the fire department,
- The building is being evacuated,
- The fire is small and confined,
- You can keep your back toward a safe path of escape,
- The extinguisher's class (A, B, C, or D) matches the type of fire, and
- You're trained and confident in extinguisher use.

PASS the extinguisher
When using a typical extinguisher, follow the "PASS" method. Hold the extinguisher upright and:

- **P**ull the pin, standing back 8 or 10 feet from the fire.
- **A**im at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.
- **S**weep at the base of the fire with the extinguishing agent.

Caps under hard hats?

In an April 17, 2006, Letter of Interpretation (LOI), OSHA responded to a question as to whether an employee may wear a cap, scarf, or other item on his/her head, for purposes of cold weather protection, while wearing a hard hat? The question was focused on construction activities.

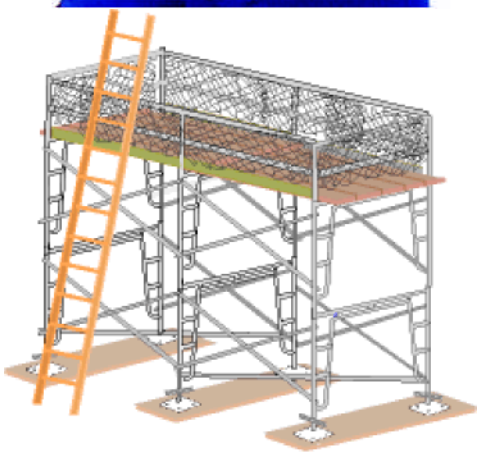
According to OSHA
OSHA indicates, in the LOI, that neither the regulatory text of §1926.100(b) and 1926.100(c) nor the ANSI standards they incorporate contain provisions specifically prohibiting the use of cold weather head garments under hard hats. However, ANSI Z89.1-1969 and Z89.2-1971 contain recommendations and a requirement regarding "winter liners."

According to ANSI
ANSI standards permit the use of cold weather liners that are specifically designed for use with hard hats—that is, specifically designed to be compatible with the protective properties of the helmets. Therefore, use of a "winter liner" specifically designed to be compatible with the hard hat's protective properties is not prohibited.

OSHA has the last word!
In contrast, if the use of a garment were to detract from the hard hat's protective properties, it may no longer meet the specification requirements in these ANSI standards. If that were the case, its use would violate §1926.100, OSHA's construction standard on head protection.

OSHA says that it is unlikely that an employer would be able to determine whether a garment not specifically designed to be compatible with a hard hat's protective properties, in fact, compromised those properties. Consequently, as a practical matter, OSHA says an employer typically would not be able to determine if its use violated §1926.100.

That's why the agency recommends that employers permit only liners that are specifically designed to be compatible with the protective properties of the hard hat.



Is this how to get up on a scaffold?

Getting to the work level of a scaffold has always been a serious problem. This is the time most scaffold accidents occur. Workers, when not provided with a proper stairway or ladder, might be tempted to use crossbraces to climb the scaffold. This is strictly forbidden in the scaffold standard.

Your employer must also provide safe access for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.

It happened like this

One of your coworkers, Michael, is assigned to work on a 20-foot scaffold. When he gets to the

base of the scaffold, he looks around for a way to get up to the 20-foot level.

After a minute of looking and not finding a ladder or other means of access, he yells up to the coworker on the scaffold. "How did you get up there?" Billy Ray, the coworker, yells back, "I climbed the crossbraces and then hoisted my tools up in a bucket. Climb up here right away, I need your help."

Michael knows this isn't safe. He decides to find a ladder to use, and if he can't, he'll talk to the supervisor about what to do.

Let's talk about this, OK?
What did Michael do right?

- Didn't climb the scaffold crossbraces like Billy Ray did.
- Decided to look for a ladder or other safe means of access.
- Decided if he can't find a ladder, he'll talk to the supervisor.

What did Billy Ray do wrong?

- Climbed the scaffold crossbraces.
- Encouraged Michael to do the same.

What happens next?
What do you think should happen next?

- Michael must find a safe way to access the scaffold.
- Billy Ray should be given training on proper scaffold access.

Scaffold access methods
When a scaffold working platform is more than two feet above or below an access point, the following methods must be used:

- If using portable, hook-on, and attachable ladders, make sure they are positioned so as not to tip the scaffold.
- When using portable, hook-on, and attachable ladders, make sure they are specifically designed for use with the type of scaffold being used.
- If using stairway-type ladders (such as ladder stands), there must be rest platforms at a maximum of 12-foot intervals.
- When using stairway-type ladders (such as ladder stands), they must have slip-resistant treads on all steps and landings.
- If using stairtowers, they must have a stair rail with a toprail and midrail on each side of the stairway.
- When using stairtowers, they must have guardrails provided on the open sides and ends of each landing.
- Safe access must also be provided for employees erecting or dismantling supported scaffolds.

Talk with your supervisor if you have any questions about how to access scaffolding properly.

Movie Trivia

Question: C*hristopher Reeve reworked Hitchcock's 1954 thriller Rear Window and starred as the lead. Who plays the lead role in the original film?*

a. James Stewart
b. Cary Grant
c. Farley Granger
d. Gregory Peck

Answer: a. James Stewart.