SHARP START

DECEMBER 30 — Valve Control Failure

A guy stepped on a locked-out valve, but the set screw was stripped out so his foot slipped the valve back enough to start opening it. He realized right away but could've fully opened it and potentially been injured.	Informed operators and used an alternative way to get to the task at hand

A valve meant to be isolated was left partially secured, leaving the system capable of moving energy without warning. Even slight valve movement can release pressure, chemicals, or steam instantly. These failures rarely give time to react — once energy releases, it's already too late.

A valve unchecked leaves risk untold,
A hazard hiding, brave and bold.
Verify before you trust—
Lockout right or bite the dust.

Micro-rushing created a false sense of completion during the final steps, which are always the most important in LOTO.

Leaving a valve half-secured is like parking on a hill and only *thinking* you set the brake.

Hazards

- Unexpected startup
- Steam or chemical release
- Multi-craft exposure
- Serious injury potential

Stats

- LOTO failures kill 120 workers every year.
- 10% of LOTO failures come from incomplete steps.

Words of Wisdom

- Verification is the spine of LOTO."
- If it moves when I touch it, it isn't locked out.

Pause and Think

Goal Seduction is the small mental push that happens when you're nearing the end of a task — the "almost done" feeling that convinces your brain to speed through the final steps. These steps are often the most critical, yet the easiest to gloss over.
This kind of quiet rushing creates the perfect storm: the work *looks* complete, but essential verifications are missing. That's how incomplete isolations slip past experienced workers.

- Where do you catch yourself micro-rushing?
- Which LOTO steps should always be slowed down?
- How can we verify isolation as a team?