



## DECEMBER 31 — False Lockout Found

<p>While we were doing the tour to inspect the lockout tagout of the finisher I noticed that they put a lock on a chain which was not attached to anything when we went to inspect I noticed that you could open the valve that contained steam which is very dangerous because if we were working on the finisher and someone opened the valve it could cause an accident since the steam can burn us.</p>	<p>We told those who did the tagged blocking that this was not right and they should correct it as they can cause an accident. They went and secured the chain in a pipe to prevent anyone from opening it.</p>
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A lock was placed on a chain that wasn't attached to anything, creating the illusion of isolation without preventing valve movement. False lockouts are especially dangerous because they look legitimate — workers trust them and unknowingly step into a hazardous zone.

**A chain that holds to empty air,  
Won't stop a valve from dangers there.  
Verify before you trust—  
Lockout right or bite the dust.**

Risk homeostasis made the worker casual with the procedure because nothing bad had happened recently, lowering vigilance while the hazards stayed fully active.

Locking a chain to nothing is like locking your front door while leaving it wide open.

### Hazards

- Zero isolation
- Unexpected startup
- Energy release injuries

### Stats

- Isolation errors contribute to hundreds of serious incidents every year.

### Words of Wisdom

- A lock without isolation is decoration, not protection.
- If I can open it, it isn't locked out.

### Pause and Think

Risk homeostasis means your brain unconsciously adjusts your behavior based on how safe you *feel*, not how safe the environment actually *is*. After long periods without incidents, vigilance drops — not because workers stop caring, but because the mind recalibrates and assumes risk is lower. This shift happens slowly and silently, leading workers to take shortcuts that would've felt unacceptable months earlier. False lockouts thrive in this mindset.

- Where does false safety creep into our routines?
- How do we challenge "it'll be fine today" thinking?
- What safety habits will you carry into the new year?