



September 10 — Secure the Equipment Before Entering

We needed to enter a confined space. We checked the locked out to find the dryer drum was not secured and needed to be done before entering. The drum was then secured so we could continue job.

Along attached to drum and secured before work was started

Don't Enter Until the Hazard Is Controlled

Employees were preparing to enter a confined space and checked the lockout before entering. During the check, they discovered that the dryer drum had not been properly secured.

The drum needed to be secured before anyone entered the confined space. The drum was then secured, allowing the work to continue.

Locking out the energy source does not automatically mean that every piece of equipment inside the space is physically secure. Equipment can still have the potential to move, rotate, fall, or shift if it has not been properly secured. Before entering a confined space, verify not only that the energy has been isolated, but also that the equipment itself is secured against movement.

Taking the time to identify and correct the hazard before entry helped prevent a potentially serious incident.

Hazards

- Unexpected movement of equipment
- Stored energy
- Struck by or caught between hazards
- Equipment movement inside a confined space
- Serious injury to employees inside the space.

Words of Wisdom

Lockout protects you from unexpected energy, but securing the equipment protects you from unexpected movement. Before entering a confined space, verify that both have been addressed.

Pause and Think

- Has all equipment been properly locked out before entering?
- Has the equipment been secured against movement?
- Could stored energy or equipment movement create a hazard?
- Have you personally verified the equipment is safe before entering?
- What would happen if the equipment moved while someone was inside?

Closing Thought

A confined space gives you less room to react when something goes wrong. Take the time to secure the equipment before you enter.