



## May 18 — The Wrong One

**We were doing a walkthrough in the morning and I found that a lock was placed on the wrong valve and that's unsafe because the product can still go inside the decanter and burn someone**

**I told the guys that they needed to correct the lockout**

The lock was on. Tags were in place. It looked right. From the outside, everything said the system was safe. But it wasn't. The wrong valve had been isolated.

Which meant the energy wasn't where they thought it was.

The product was still inside. Still under pressure. Still capable of moving. That's the danger with lockout.

When it's wrong, it doesn't fail slowly. It doesn't give you a warning. It creates a false sense of security.

You believe the system is safe...Right up until it isn't. And when energy is still present - pressure, motion, stored material it doesn't wait for you to realize the mistake.

It releases when it's able. The issue was caught before work continued. The lockout was corrected. Because lockout isn't just about placing a lock. It's about making sure the energy is actually controlled.

### Hazards

- Store energy remaining in system
- Unexpected release of pressure or material
- Equipment movement or startup
- Exposure to hazardous products
- Line of fire exposure to multiple energy sources.

### Stats

- Many LOTO-related incidents involve incorrect isolation points
- Stored energy is a leading cause of serious injuries during maintenance
- Verification failures are a common factor in lockout incidents
- Proper lockout procedures significantly reduce injury risk

### Words of Wisdom

- Locking it out doesn't mean it's safe
- Verify before you trust
- The wrong lock is no protection at all

### Pause and Think

Lockout can become routine.

Same equipment. Same valves. Same steps.

And that's when assumptions start to take over.

You think it's right because it usually is. You trust it because it looks correct.

But lockout isn't about what it looks like.

It's about what's actually been controlled.

- Do I verify the correct isolation points every time?
- Am I relying on habit instead of checking?
- Do I confirm the energy is gone — or assume it is?
- Would I catch this before starting work?