



July 22 — Verify the Valve, Not Just the Lock

On walk through for mvr#1 annual shut down, observed lock installed on the wrong valve.	Informed the operator of the location of the lock. Installed additional lock on the correct valve and put new seal on lock box.
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A lock on the wrong valve provides the same protection...

...as no lock at all.

During the pre-job Lockout/Tagout walkthrough for the MVR #1 annual shutdown, the crew identified that a lock had been placed on the wrong valve. At first glance, everything appeared to be in order—but the valve controlling the hazardous energy had not actually been isolated.

Because the error was found during the walkthrough, the crew corrected the lockout before any maintenance work began.

Equipment can have valves that look nearly identical, are located close together, or have similar identification tags. That's why Lockout/Tagout requires more than simply placing a lock. Every isolation point must be positively identified and verified before anyone begins work.

Taking a few extra moments to confirm the correct valve is far easier than dealing with the consequences of unexpected energy release.

Hazards

- Incorrect energy isolation
- Unexpected release of hazardous energy
- Similar or mislabeled equipment
- False sense of security
- Serious injury or fatality

Words of Wisdom

A lock only protects you when it's installed on the correct isolation point. Slow down, verify equipment identification, and never assume the first valve you find is the right one.

Pause and Think

- How can similar-looking valves or equipment increase the chance of an error?
- What steps do you take to positively identify the correct isolation point?
- Why is the Lockout/Tagout walkthrough such an important part of the process?
- Have you ever made a mistake during a final verification that could have led to an incident?
- How can teamwork and a second set of eyes strengthen your Lockout/Tagout process?

Closing Thought

The purpose of Lockout/Tagout isn't simply to place a lock—it's to eliminate hazardous energy. Every lock, every valve, and every verification matters.