



SHARP START



July 29 — Every Lock Protects a Life

My coworker was helping me to close the north economizer and he forgot to install this lock on the lockbox

I stop him and show him where the lockbox was

One missing lock may seem like a small oversight...

But every lock represents someone's life.

While preparing to complete a Lockout/Tagout on the north economizer, a crew member noticed that a coworker had forgotten to install their personal lock on the group lockbox. Although the rest of the lockout had been completed correctly, the missing lock meant the process was not finished.

The oversight was caught before work began, the employee installed their personal lock, and the crew verified that everyone working on the equipment was properly protected.

When we've completed the same process many times, it's easy to become distracted, interrupted, or simply forget a step. That's why Lockout/Tagout depends on both personal responsibility and teamwork. Looking out for one another isn't questioning someone's ability—it's making sure everyone goes home safely.

A personal lock isn't just another step in the procedure. It's your personal protection against someone restoring hazardous energy before you're safely clear of the equipment.

Hazards

- Incomplete Lockout/Tagout
- Unexpected equipment startup
- Hazardous energy exposure
- Human error and distractions
- False sense of security

Words of Wisdom

Your personal lock is your personal protection. Never assume someone else has completed every step. Take the time to verify your lock is installed and help your coworkers do the same.

Pause and Think

- Why is every employee responsible for placing their own personal lock?
- What distractions or interruptions could cause someone to miss a step in the Lockout/Tagout process?
- How can coworkers respectfully verify that everyone is properly locked out?
- Why is a group lockbox only effective when every required lock has been installed?
- What habits can help prevent small oversights during critical safety procedures?

Closing Thought

Lockout/Tagout isn't complete until every person is protected. One missing lock can put a coworker at risk—but one attentive coworker can prevent an incident before it happens.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something