



SHARP START



July 1 — Pressure Doesn't Change the Hazard

The crew was asked to retorque flanges on a system while the system was running.

Told them we were not comfortable with doing the job and asked for a LOTO. Job was rescheduled for the next week when the line was going to be down again.

Most people don't ignore safety because they want to get hurt.

Sometimes they feel pressure to get the job done.

During a maintenance activity, a crew was asked to re-torque flanges on a system while the system was still operating. Rather than assuming the task could be completed safely or allowing production pressure to influence their decision, the crew recognized the hazard and stopped the work.

The employees explained that the system needed to be properly shut down and isolated before maintenance could begin. Once Lockout/Tagout procedures were completed and hazardous energy was controlled, the work moved forward safely.

One of the biggest challenges in any workplace is balancing production demands with safe work practices. Deadlines, schedules, and unexpected issues can create pressure to keep work moving. When that happens, it can be tempting to believe that a task will "only take a minute" or that the risk is acceptable.

Life-saving procedures like Lockout/Tagout exist because hazardous energy doesn't care how experienced we are or how quickly the task can be completed. Every employee has both the authority and the responsibility to stop work whenever conditions are unsafe.

In this situation, the crew demonstrated exactly what a strong safety culture looks like. They respectfully spoke up, refused to accept unnecessary risk, and ensured the job was completed the right way.

Hazards

- Exposure to hazardous energy
- Line of fire hazard
- Serious injury or fatality
- Production pressure influencing decision-making

Words of Wisdom

Doing the job safely sometimes means stopping the job. Production goals can be rescheduled an injury can change a life forever. Never allow pressure, assumptions, or urgency to replace proper Lockout/Tagout procedures.

Pause and Think

- Have you ever felt pressure to complete a job that didn't seem safe?
- What would you do if you were asked to perform work before hazardous energy was properly isolated?
- How can supervisors and coworkers support employees who exercise Stop Work Authority?
- Why is it important to verify that equipment is properly locked out, even when someone tells you it is safe?
- What does a strong safety culture look like when production and safety appear to conflict?

Closing Thought

Real leadership isn't measured by how quickly a job gets done, it's measured by having the courage to stop when something isn't safe.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something