

## **Lockout/ Tagout**

When most people think of uncontrolled hazardous energy, they immediately think of electricity, but there are other sources of energy that can be just as hazardous, including thermal, chemical, pneumatic, hydraulic, mechanical, and gravitational.

It is important to remember that all sources of energy have the potential to unexpectedly startup, energize, or release. Therefore, energy sources must be identified and locked, blocked, or released before servicing or performing maintenance.

### **General lockout recommendations when servicing machines**

- Disengage the power and stop the machine before servicing.
- Do not clean, unplug, lubricate, adjust or repair any machine while it is running, unless it is specifically recommended in the service or owner's manual.
- Lock out the ignition and put a warning sign over the ignition that tells everyone that you are working on the machine.
- Engage safety locks if the hydraulic cylinders are so equipped.

### **Pre-planning for a Lockout**

- Make an initial survey should to determine which switches, valves, or other energy isolating devices apply to the equipment being locked out. More than one energy source may be involved.
- Any questionable identification of sources must be cleared by the employees with their supervisors.
- Energy lockout devices must be used by trained individuals. All energy lockout devices must be adequately labeled or marked to indicate their function. The identification includes the following:
  - Equipment supplied
  - Energy type and magnitude
  - Where system complexity requires it, a written sequence in checklist form should be prepared for equipment access, lockout/tagout, clearance, release, and startup.

### **Lockout/tagout Procedures**

1. Preparation (Notifying employees on lockout/tagout procedures)
2. Machine or equipment shut down
3. Machine or equipment isolation
4. Application of lockout/tagout
5. Verification of isolation
6. Lockout/tagout interruption
7. Release from lockout/tagout

If more than one person is required to lock out equipment, each individual must place a personal lock and tag on the group lockout device when he/she begins work and must remove those devices when work is completed.

Information provided by Farm Safety Association, Inc.

<http://www.farmsafety.ca/>

<http://www.nasdonline.org/document/36/d001605/agricultural-lockout.html>

<http://www.nasdonline.org/organization/20/o000020/farm-safety-association-inc.html>