



Weekly Safety Tip

Why Lockout/Tagout Still Fails



Why Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Procedures Still Fail is Due to the HUMAN FACTOR.



Workplace culture impacts Lockout/Tagout compliance, beyond just having the right equipment and procedures.

On June 22, 2023, a worker at a rubber hose manufacturing plant suffered severe crushing injuries when powered belts that were still energized and unguarded pulled him into a machine. OSHA later determined that the company had failed to follow lockout/tagout (LOTO) procedures, ultimately proposing more than \$389,000 in penalties. This incident, unfortunately, is not news when it comes to lockout/tagout violations as it consistently ranks among OSHA's top 10 most frequently cited standards each year.



Most facilities cited for LOTO violations would claim to have the right equipment, procedures and safety protocols in place, so **why do we still get alarming numbers of LOTO-related accidents?** The answer may lie in the human factors that are behind every safety procedure.

Why LOTO Is Important for Industrial Safety?

A lockout/tagout procedure, when implemented 100% of the time, is designed to prevent the unexpected startup or release of stored energy in machinery.

OSHA's standard for The Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) (**29 CFR 1910.147**) outlines the specific actions employers must take: isolate all potential energy sources, apply the correct locks and tags, and verify that the machinery truly can't be re-energized before any maintenance or servicing begins.

Why are these standards in place? Because uncontrolled energy can pose fatal risks.

As OSHA points out, a "jammed conveyor system" can suddenly release, or an "automatically turned-on steam valve" can burn unsuspecting workers in seconds.

This makes the lockout / tagout procedure a critical, life-saving practice that should be integrated into the culture of every industrial facility. Employers who fail to prioritize LOTO compliance risk more than getting hefty OSHA fines; they also risk the health and lives of their workers.

Why Proper LOTO Procedures Still Fail?

While it's clear how essential lockout/tagout is to industrial safety, the reality is that:

even well-designed LOTO procedures can fail because of several human factors.

1. Inadequate Training

Employees who are not properly trained may lack awareness of lockout/tagout procedures or misunderstand their importance. OSHA frequently cites inadequate training as a leading cause of LOTO violations, including failing to establish or communicate an energy control procedure and neglecting to conduct periodic evaluations.

Even when management invests in lockout/tagout devices and written policies, gaps in training create a disconnect between policy and practice. **When employees either do not understand or undervalue the significance of LOTO, they are more likely to take shortcuts and ignore established procedures.** Without thorough instruction and regular reinforcement of safe practices, workers may view LOTO as a cumbersome compliance checkbox rather than a life-saving protocol.

Weekly Safety Share



Health Issues Resulting From Heat

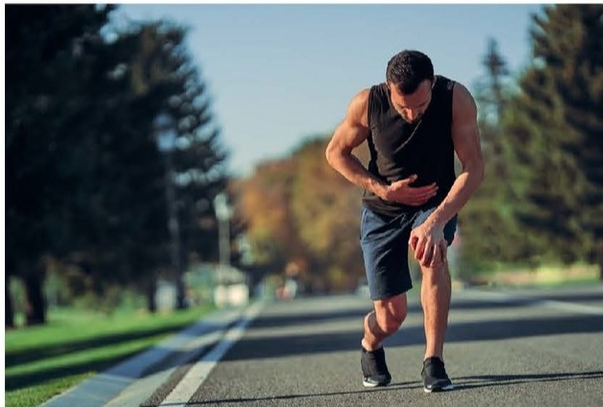
5 health issues that can worsen in a heat wave — including how high temps can trigger a heart attack and stroke

This week, millions of Americans — including New Yorkers — are grappling with what forecasters are calling a [“very sweaty” heat wave](#).

It’s miserable — but it’s worth remembering that, without the proper precautions, it’s also extremely dangerous.

[Dehydration](#) can cause dizziness, headaches, low blood pressure, blurred vision, kidney problems and, in extreme cases, fatal heatstroke.

And that’s just in healthy people.



Dr. Thomas Gut and Dr. Nima Majlesi explain how high temperatures can increase the risk of heart attack and stroke, kidney issues, respiratory problems and more.

While everyone should try to [stay cool and hydrated](#) in these sizzling temperatures, The Post spoke to two doctors who warn that people with these health issues are at especially high risk.

Heart disease

“Those with [cardiovascular disease are at high risk](#) since these patients are often asked to limit fluid intake,” Dr. Thomas Gut, associate chair of medicine at Northwell’s Staten Island University Hospital, told The Post.

“Sweating beyond the normal daily expected amount can lead to significant fluid shifts and [electrolyte imbalances](#) that can cause significant harm, especially to those already taking diuretics medications.”

Dr. Nima Majlesi, who practices emergency medicine at the same hospital, told The Post that high temperatures can mess with the normal blood flow to the heart, potentially causing [acute coronary syndrome](#), which spikes the risk of heart attack.

When you get really hot, your body needs to work harder to cool you down, which can also place more strain on the heart.



Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

8015 Rinker Pointe Court
Northwood, OH | 43619 United States

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.