SKILLSIGNAL™
Construction Safety & Compliance

TOOLBOX TALK

Lockout/Tagout Affects Everyone: Three Jobs, and You Will Hold All Three Before the Week Is Out

TOPIC NO.	DURATION	AUDIENCE
LO-01	10 to 15 min	All Crew

OSHA REFERENCE 29 CFR 1910.147 · 29 CFR 1926.417 · 29 CFR 1926.702(j) · 29 CFR 1926.600(a)(3)

PROJECT / JOBSITE	DATE	PRESENTED BY

01 THE HOOK

START HERE

A mechanic is under a concrete pump with his arm inside the hopper, clearing a jam. The operator comes back from the truck, sees the machine is stopped, and hits the switch to see why. That is the whole story. There is no villain. Two guys doing their jobs, thirty feet apart, and one of them did not know the other was inside the machine. Lockout/Tagout exists for that exact thirty feet. It is not a rule for mechanics. It is a rule for the operator, the laborer sweeping next to it, the foreman who signed off on the job, and everyone who could possibly touch a switch, a valve, or a lever on this site. This is the first of twelve talks. Today is who you are in the program.

02 WHAT THE RULE IS AND WHERE IT LIVES

OSHA's control of hazardous energy standard, **29 CFR 1910.147**, has been in force since 1989. It requires a written energy control program, equipment-specific procedures, locks and tags, training for three classes of workers, and an annual audit. It was the **fourth most cited OSHA standard in fiscal year 2025, with 2,562 violations.** OSHA has estimated for decades that proper lockout prevents roughly **120 deaths and 50,000 injuries a year.**

Here is the part most construction crews get wrong: **1910.147(a)(1)(ii)(A)** says the standard itself **does not cover construction**. That does not mean lockout is optional on a jobsite. It means the construction rules are scattered: **1926.417** requires deenergized electrical circuits to be **rendered inert and tagged** at every point they could be energized; **1926.702(j)** requires that concrete and masonry equipment (compressors, mixers, screens, pumps) be **locked out and tagged** before any maintenance, with tags reading “Do Not Start”; **1926.600(a)(3)** requires raised equipment to be blocked or cribbed before anyone works under it. Most general contractors close the gaps by writing 1910.147 into their safety program as the procedure. That is the program this series teaches.

03 THE THREE ROLES

ROLE	WHO	WHAT THE STANDARD EXPECTS
AUTHORIZED	**Applies the lock**	The person who **locks or tags out equipment to service or maintain it** (1910.147(b)). Mechanics, electricians, millwrights, and any tradesman clearing a jam or changing a blade. Trained on energy types, magnitudes, isolation methods, and the specific procedure for that machine (1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A)).
AFFECTED	**Runs or works near it**	The person who **operates or uses the equipment** being serviced, or works in the area where it is happening (1910.147(b)). Operators, helpers, and the crew next to it. Trained on the purpose and use of the procedure and told **before** the lock goes on and **after** it comes off (1910.147(c)(7)(i)(B), (c)(9)).
OTHER	**Could walk through**	**Everyone else whose work is or may be in the area** (1910.147(c)(7)(i)(C)). Delivery drivers, other trades, the super on a walk. Trained on one thing: a lock or tag means **do not touch, do not start, do not remove.**

The roles are not job titles. They are **what you are doing right now**. The operator who runs the mixer at 7 a.m. is an affected employee. If he is the one who pulls the drum guard at 10 a.m. to clear a jam, he is now authorized and needs the training and the lock. The laborer who walks past the same mixer at noon is “other.” Your role changes with the task, and so do your responsibilities.

04 WHAT EACH ROLE OWES THE OTHERS

RULE 1

AUTHORIZED: YOU OWN THE LOCK AND THE WARNING

Only authorized employees apply and remove locks and tags (**1910.147(c)(8)**). You tell every affected employee before you lock out and before you restore power (**(c)(9)**). You follow the written procedure for that machine, every step, every time.

RULE 2

AFFECTED: YOU STAY OFF IT AND YOU SPEAK UP

You do not try to start, operate, or “check” equipment with a lock or tag on it. You know who applied it, because the lock says so. If you see somebody working on a machine with no lock on the disconnect, that is your emergency, not just theirs.

RULE 3

OTHER: A LOCK IS A WALL

You never remove, bypass, or ignore a lock or tag. You do not cut it, do not “wiggle it,” do not flip the breaker next to it to see if that one works. If you need the machine, you find the name on the lock.

RULE 4

EVERYONE: THE SHORTCUT IS THE INJURY

Nearly every lockout fatality traces to one of three shortcuts: **the lock never went on**, somebody **removed someone else’s lock**, or the machine was **restarted while somebody was still in it**. All three are decisions made by a person who thought it was a quick job.

⚠️ **“IT’S JUST A QUICK JAM” IS THE SENTENCE IN THE FATALITY REPORT**

Clearing a jam, adjusting a guard, changing a blade, unclogging a hopper. OSHA defines servicing and maintenance to include every one of those, and the quick ones are the ones that kill, because nobody locks out for thirty seconds of work. If any part of your body will be where the machine moves, the machine gets locked out. There is no quick-job exception.

05 WHY IT MATTERS

[JOBSITE]

FOR THE CREW

Lockout citations are top-five every year because inspectors ask one question: show me the written procedure for that machine, and show me who is trained. A crew where everyone knows their role and the tags say “Do Not Start” passes that question without the super in the room.

[INDIVIDUAL]

FOR YOU

You will be the affected employee far more often than the authorized one. That makes you the person most likely to restart a machine with somebody in it. Knowing the name on the lock and never touching it is the whole job.

[HOME]

FOR LIFE OFF-SITE

The table saw in the garage, the lawn mower blade, the dryer drum. Unplug it, keep the plug where you can see it, and nobody starts it while your hand is inside. Same principle, same reason.

06 TODAY’S DRILL

TODAY’S DRILL **NAME YOUR ROLE**

Look at the equipment in your work area today: pumps, mixers, compressors, conveyors, saws, lifts. For each one, say out loud which role you are: authorized, affected, or other. Then find the written lockout procedure for one of them. If you are the authorized person for a machine and cannot find its procedure, or have not been trained on it, do not service it today. Tell the foreman.

07 CREW DISCUSSION

Take 2 minutes. Pick one.

1. Who on this crew has ever cleared a jam or changed a blade without locking out? What made it feel like it did not count?

2. Which machine on this site has the most people around it who could restart it? Do they know what a lock on it means?

3. Where is the written lockout procedure for the equipment you work on, and have you read it?

08 ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

All attendees confirm they participated in this Toolbox Talk and understand the content covered.

NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE

_____ Date: _____

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