

LOTO Practices Working Group

- Dan Ahearn
MPO
X 7658
- Rich Biscardi
SHSD
X7760
- Bill Brown
QMO
X 4615
- Dan Galligan
SHSD
X 2066
- Phil Harrington
Training Office
X 5669
- Eric Johannsen
SHSD
X 8614
- Ed Nowak
SHSD
X 8211
- Ariel Nunez
F&O
X 8838
- Kim Mohanty
CMPMSD
X 4402
- Rich Rambadt
Site Resources
X 4548
- Paul Sampson
CAD
X 7178
- Chris Seniuk
BHSO
X 2034
- Gregg Tomasello
Site Resources
X 4548

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

LOTO NEWSLETTER

Issue I

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Introduction - Welcome to the BNL LOTO Newsletter

The revised LOTO Subject Area was published on September 30th, 2013 and the LOTO subject area team has completed their work. The new subject area includes changes in format and simplification of the LOTO process. Initial feedback from staff is very positive.

A new team, the LOTO Practices Working Group (LPWG), has now been formed to continually improve the content of the revised Subject Area and associated training. The group will also develop tools to help with LOTO implementation and provide a pathway for enhanced communication between BNL organizations on LOTO issues. The LPWG has been meeting since late October. The members of the working group consist of a cross-section of the lab population that oversee and implement LOTO. This newsletter is one direct result of the group's efforts. It provides a monthly summary on the implementation of the new process, best practices, lessons learned, worker feedback and a questions and answers section. So look for it on the SHSD website and share the information with others and help us with the improvements by providing your input to one of the team members listed at the left side of the newsletter.

Best Practice - Energy Sources and Threshold Information table

The revised LOTO Subject Area includes several tools to use when evaluating whether lockout/tagout is required to protect workers from hazardous energy while servicing equipment. The *energy sources and threshold information* table lists types of energy (thermal, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, etc.) and levels for which LOTO is required when workers are possibly exposed to these energy sources. The subject area also includes *Supplemental Information on Thresholds for Various Forms of Energy*. These two documents can be used together by work planners to help provide consistent implementation of LOTO across BNL. Look for both documents in the *forms and exhibits* section of the LOTO subject area.

Lessons Learned — Use of LOTO locks

The sight of a LOTO lock attached to a piece of equipment tells us that someone is working on the equipment and that if the equipment were to be energized, that person's life would be in immediate danger. For that reason LOTO locks must not be used for purposes other than protecting people from hazardous energy. Even something as simple as using a LOTO style lock on a gym locker can desensitize someone to the importance of these locks to the safety of our staff. Recently five LOTO style locks were found on BNL gym lockers. To keep the message consistent, DO NOT use LOTO style locks for any purpose other than protecting staff from hazardous energy.

Worker Feedback

LOTO tags are one sided and the information blocks on the tag are not consistent with requirements in the LOTO Subject Area. This makes it tough for the worker to fill out the tag appropriately.

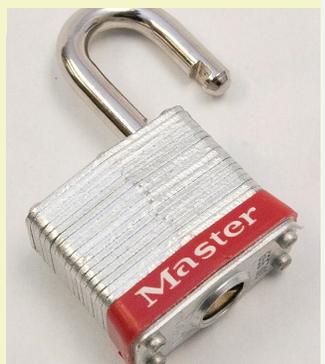
LPWG Response

BNL specific LOTO tags are being designed with input from line organizations and LOTO Practices Working Group members. See any working group member for a preview of the new design. We expect the new design to be incorporated into the subject area soon.

Q and A

Q - How often does the LOTO Practices Working Group meet?

A - The working group is currently meeting every week for one hour. Starting in January, we expect to drop the meeting frequency to once every two weeks. We will be communicating through email in between meetings.



LOTO LOCK