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LOTO NEWSLETTER

LOTO Observations

A review of the LOTO observations for the third quarter of FY15 shows a slight uptick in noted unsatisfactory findings in LOTO work planning and implementation. This is a concern for all of us, but especially for those workers performing service and maintenance under established LOTOs in the field. These workers are relying on a properly work planned and implemented LOTO for their safety.

This newsletter will focus on the observations over the last three months at BNL. Please discuss this newsletter at your morning meetings and ask folks at all levels to maintain their questioning attitude and to continue to be an active member of the work planning process. When a LOTO is needed apply the process; following all the required LOTO steps.

Number of noted items for improvement by LOTO sub-process April, May and June—2015	
LOTO Training	0
LOTO Planning	5
LOTO Application	4
LOTO Removal	1

LOTO Surveillance Analysis Noted items for improvement—April, May and June 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work planning does not identify hazardous energy sources • PPE not worn for zero energy check • LOTO tags not fully filled out

LOTO Observations

Observation reports can be found at the link below.

<http://intranet.bnl.gov/eshq/safetyobs/Reports.aspx>

At that link, you can generate reports filtered by date. There is useful information on this webpage that staff can use for discussion at morning meetings.

For instance, so far during the third quarter of FY 15 (as of June 15th), eighty-seven percent of LOTO observations were completed without any noted issues. That is a five percent drop from our average. Over the last year, we averaged ninety-two percent. Discussion of the LOTO observations at your morning meeting will help us reach our goal of moving this number towards one-hundred percent.

Another item that could be discussed is correct identification of all hazardous energy when planning service and maintenance tasks. See the right hand column of this newsletter for more detail of two specific cases you can use for discussion.

Work Planning and LOTO

At BNL over the past few months, there were two instances where work planning did not fully identify all hazardous energy sources.

- 1) Before beginning work to remove wires in a trough, an electrician performed lockout/tagout (LOTO) on the transformer feeding the electrical panel supplying power to the bundle of wires. A zero voltage check performed at the panel indicated that zero voltage was present. A spark was observed when the electrician proceeded to cut the wires. The electrician stopped and discovered three unlabeled 110-volt energized wires in the center of the bundle.
- 2) In a job that involved multiple energy sources, the original written plan did not capture all hazards—steam was not identified as an additional hazard. The FPM and Supervisor for the building were out and the job was being covered by an FPM and Supervisor (primary authorized) who were not on the original job walk down.

In the two cases above, positive identification of all energized sources and additional communication would have improved the process with regard to safety. Control methods like these are described in the LOTO Subject Area. Please take a minute to visit the SA and review the process.