

LOTO
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BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

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LOTO NEWSLETTER

LOTO Observations

There were 77 LOTO-related observations conducted in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015. An analysis showed that 95 percent of these observations had all satisfactory findings. This is our highest percentage for any quarter to date - thank you!

An analysis of observations over the last seven quarters shows an increase in the percentage of LOTO observations with all satisfactory findings. When we started back in the winter of 2014 the percentage was in the high 80s - now we are well over 90 percent. This is a very positive outcome for us, making BNL a safer place for all!

Number of noted items for improvement by LOTO sub-process July, August, and September, 2015

LOTO Training	0
LOTO Planning	3
LOTO Application	1
LOTO Removal	0

LOTO Surveillance Analysis Noted items for improvement—July, August, September, 2015

- Work planning did not identify hazardous energy sources
- LOTO lock not personally identifiable
- Legacy “old” style LOTO tag found on equipment out of service

From the Field — LOTO locks are required to be personally identifiable. *What makes a LOTO lock personally identifiable?*

LOTO locks can be made personally identifiable in one of three ways:

1) By including the name and phone number of the Authorized Employee on the lock; 2) By having an inventory number on the lock that can be traced through the organization's LOTO database or; 3) By attaching a LOTO tag with the name and phone number of the Authorized Employee. Contractors must also put their company name on the tag.

Some situations require LOTO tags to be completely filled out.

These are: 1) Simple LOTO that extends more than one shift; 2) All tags applied for Complex LOTO - Single Worker; 3) Tags applied by a Primary Authorized Employee for Complex LOTO - Group and; 4) Tags applied to field equipment for Complex LOTO - Group

The LOTO Subject Area specifies that a building number is needed in the location field of the tag. Workers noted that at times a building number is not applicable (such as in manholes, outside spaces, etc.). Great Point! A change to the LOTO Subject Area is in the works to implement this recommendation. Thanks for the suggestion!

Work Planning and LOTO

LOTO of Emergency Generators

Service and maintenance on an emergency generator system requires careful work planning. These systems have multiple sources of energy and batteries must be considered when applying LOTO.

During a recent LOTO observation, a review of the written Complex LOTO plan with a worker, it was decided that the generator battery cables would need to be LOTO'ed as well. This was initially not indicated on the Complex LOTO plan. Work was paused and the work plan was changed to include LOTO of the battery cables.

Use of LOTO locks with inventory numbers

BNL allows organizations to use an inventory number to make LOTO locks personally identifiable. Remember though, staff outside your organization may not know how to get information from your database. If outside staff are working with you, they should be briefed on who to contact to get this information.

If you are working outside your organization, it would be best practice to use a lock with your name and phone number on it, or attach a filled out tag to the lock, so it is readily apparent who applied the lock.