



Isolation Procedures

Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

Visible Felt Leadership (VFL) visits should focus on observation, discussion and engagement. Periodically, we are sharing discussion topics aligned to current H&S campaigns.

SAFETY ESSENTIALS – ISOLATION PROCEDURES

KEY MESSAGES FOR LEADERS

- No work should start until all hazardous energy sources have been identified, isolated, locked, tagged, and verified as being in a zero-energy state.
- LOTOTO is a life-saving critical control designed to prevent serious injuries and fatalities during maintenance, cleaning, inspection, troubleshooting, and maintenance activities.
- Isolation procedures must address all forms of hazardous energy, including electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, thermal, stored energy, and material feeds.
- Employees and contractors must fully understand their roles, responsibilities, and the specific isolation procedures applicable to the equipment being worked on.
- Try Out is a critical step to verify that isolation is effective before any work begins and whenever conditions change.
- Stopping work is a positive and expected safety action whenever isolation integrity is uncertain or controls are not effective.
- Effective isolation ensures that safety always comes before production, schedule pressure, or operational demands.

HOW TO ENGAGE DURING VFL

- Engage employees through open-ended questions about how they identify, isolate, and verify hazardous energy sources before starting work.
- Reinforce the use of LOTOTO, Take 5, PTW, and structured task planning before exposure to hazardous equipment.
- Encourage employees to stop work whenever isolation status is unclear or when controls cannot be verified.
- Confirm that isolation procedures are accessible, understood, and consistently applied by employees and contractors.

QUESTIONS DURING VFL

- What helps you ensure all hazardous energy sources are identified before starting work?
- When do you decide LOTOTO is required, and how do you verify isolation is effective?
- Do you always perform Try Out, and what do you focus on most during verification?
- How do you report deficiencies, damaged isolation devices, or deviations from the isolation procedure?
- Where do you feel most exposed to hazardous energy risks during your task?

IDENTIFYING RISKS AND CHALLENGES

- Failure to identify all hazardous energy sources and stored energy.
- Mismatch between documented isolation procedures and actual field conditions.
- Ineffective, missing, or poorly understood isolation controls.

REINFORCING GOOD PRACTICES

- Consistent and meaningful application of LOTOTO and Try Out verification.
- Stopping work whenever isolation status cannot be verified.
- Following approved isolation procedures, permits, and defined control measures.
- Sharing and recognizing positive examples of isolation compliance and hazardous energy control.