

Operating Guideline # 819

Lock Out Procedures

December 10, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines for the use of equipment lock out procedures at incident sites that MLFD may have to operate.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Performing emergency operations around machinery, equipment or specialized systems may subject firefighters to injury or death should the equipment operate normally or unexpectedly during the operation. Firefighters must take all precautions to identify, eliminate and control all potential sources of energy associated with the machinery or equipment through the use of lockout procedures.

GUIDELINE:

1. Command shall attempt to locate a trained person who has knowledge of the machinery, equipment or systems involved in the emergency operation to assist in identifying potential hazards and lockout procedures.
2. All equipment shall be shut off where possible and all energy sources neutralized before operations begin.
3. All machinery, equipment or systems shall have positive lockout mechanisms in place to prevent the possible re-energizing of the equipment.
4. Sources of energy can include any electrical (including arc flash potential), mechanical, pneumatic, chemical, nuclear, thermal, gravitational and stored energy (batteries, springs, pressure and hydraulics). Wind should also be considered an energy source as it can move objects. Always be cautious of secondary energy sources leading to the same device. Adding water (fire hose) can create a chemical reaction (off gassing, exothermic reaction, chemical change (caustic/acidic). If available request safety data sheets from the business owner on chemicals in the hot zone.
5. In pneumatic/hydraulic equipment, line shut offs shall be enabled and lockouts that are consistent with these procedures should be performed. Equipment, pipe/hoses lines, etc., should have any pressure bled from the system, if possible.
6. Fire Department personnel equipped with a radio shall be posted at the lockout station(s) until operations are concluded to prevent the machinery's power supply from being inadvertently turned back on.
7. During an emergency, lock out will be done as practical. During over-haul check with the business owner if they have a lock out/tag out procedure as this may identify additional hazards.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)