
Hazardous Energy Control

914.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the minimum hazardous energy control requirements mandated by 29 CFR 1910.147 (AAC § R20-5-602).

The control requirements are intended to isolate a machine or equipment from all energy sources to prevent the start-up of the machine or equipment or the release of stored energy, both of which could cause injury.

The control requirements apply to the servicing or maintenance of machines and equipment used in a fire station or on an apparatus. This policy includes member training and periodic control and inspection requirements.

914.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Affected member - A member whose job duties require him/her to work in an area where hazardous energy exposure could result from cleaning, repairing, servicing, setting up or adjusting machines or equipment under lockout or tagout.

Authorized member - A member who is qualified to perform lockout or tagout of machines or equipment, in order to clean, repair, service, set up or adjust its operations. An affected member becomes an authorized member when that member's duties include performing the maintenance operations covered in this policy.

Hazardous energy - The unexpected energization or activation of equipment, or the release of stored energy, that could potentially cause injury.

Lockout or tagout - The use of devices, positive methods and procedures that result in the effective isolation or securing of machinery and equipment from all hazardous energy sources (e.g., mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, electrical or thermal).

914.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to implement and maintain a written hazardous energy control program to prevent the unexpected release of stored energy or unexpected start-up of machines or equipment.

914.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief or the authorized designee shall have overall responsibility for meeting the requirements of the hazardous energy control program. District members shall be trained commensurate with their duties to perform lockout/tagout and other hazardous energy control procedures. The program should include, but is not limited to (29 CFR 1910.147; AAC § R20-5-602):

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- (a) Guidelines and procedures that specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules and techniques to be utilized when working in proximity to, and for the control of, hazardous energy and the means to enforce compliance, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. A statement of the intended use of the procedure.
 - 2. Procedural steps for shutting down, isolating, blocking and securing machines or equipment to control hazardous energy.
 - 3. The procedural steps for the placement, removal and transfer of lockout and tagout devices.
 - 4. The requirements for testing a machine or equipment to determine and verify the effectiveness of lockout, tagout and other hazardous energy control devices.
- (b) As needed, the District shall develop separate procedural steps for the safe lockout or tagout of each machine or piece of equipment affected by the hazardous energy control program.
- (c) The District shall develop and maintain a list of all machines or equipment affected by the hazardous energy control program. The list may include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Extrinsic tools
 - 2. Chain saws
 - 3. Hydraulic systems (e.g., rack, jacks)
 - 4. Complex electrical systems (e.g., generators, pumps, radios)

914.4 LOCKOUT AND TAGOUT

An authorized member shall be responsible for the following, before working on de-energized electrical equipment or systems, unless the equipment is physically removed from the wiring system (29 CFR 1910.147; AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) Notification of all involved personnel.
- (b) Locking the disconnecting means in the “open” position with the use of lockable devices (e.g., padlocks or combination locks), or disconnecting the conductor or other positive methods or procedures. This will effectively prevent unexpected or inadvertent energizing of a designated circuit, machine or appliance.
- (c) Tagging the disconnect means with appropriate accident prevention tags. Lockout is not required when the tagging procedures are used as specified here and where the disconnect means is accessible only to personnel trained in tagout procedures.
- (d) Blocking the operation or dissipation of energy of all stored energy devices that present a hazard (e.g., capacitors or pneumatic, spring-loaded mechanisms).

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914.5 INSPECTIONS

The Blue Ridge Fire District shall conduct a periodic inspection of the hazardous energy control program components at least annually to evaluate its continued effectiveness and to determine the necessity for updating any methods or procedures (29 CFR 1910.147; AAC § R20-5-602).

- (a) The periodic inspection shall be performed by an authorized member other than the members utilizing the hazardous energy control procedures that are being inspected.
- (b) Where lockout and/or tagout are used for hazardous energy control, the inspector shall provide a review of roles and responsibilities to the authorized members.
- (c) The Health and Safety Officer (HSO) shall certify that the periodic inspections have been performed. The certification shall identify the machine or equipment that was inspected, the date of the inspection, the authorized members included and the name of the person performing the inspection.

914.6 TRAINING

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that members receive training on hazardous energy control methods and procedures, based on the reasonably expected workplace exposure. Members shall receive training prior to any work assignment in which a potential hazard exists. Training should include, but is not limited to, the following topics (29 CFR 1910.147; AAC § R20-5-602):

- (a) Definitions of hazardous energy
- (b) Workplace hazards
- (c) Work techniques, hazards and injuries involved in energized equipment
- (d) Lockout and tagout procedures, equipment and its proper use
- (e) Authorized and affected employees
- (f) Safety precautions required when energized electrical equipment is not under the control of an authorized member
- (g) Refresher training on an annual basis, depending on the results of the annual inspection process

914.7 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Coordinator shall document the hazardous energy control training provided to members both initially and annually and shall retain those records for one year. Documentation shall include:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of the topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
- (c) The names or other identifiers and ranks of the members who received the training.

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- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.