

Top 10 root causes of deficient lockout in Ontario pulp and paper operations

Inadequate or improper lockout of machines is top health and safety risk

As identified by workers, supervisors, and employers in the Ontario pulp, newsprint, and specialty paper sector through a Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD)-facilitated risk assessment and root-cause analysis workshops in partnership with Workplace Safety North.



1. Lack of worker training and experience



6. Fatigue – shiftwork, lack of staff, workload, long hours



2. Improper lockout, lack of identification of equipment
- working on wrong or live equipment



7. Mental health – stress, fatigue, substance use, anxiety



3. Lack of written procedure



8. Vulnerable workers - new Canadians, young workers



4. Inaccurate lockout sheets outlining roles and responsibilities



9. History of no lockout - poor safety culture



5. Inconsistent lockout, taking shortcuts



10. Interlocks – wrong sequence, live equipment

The internal responsibility system (IRS) is a system where everyone shares responsibility for occupational health and safety that is appropriate to their role and function within the workplace. All workplace parties — including employers, managers, supervisors, and workers — need to do their part to raise awareness of risks, and follow and promote safety procedures to help make workplaces safer.

For a detailed list of critical controls you can put in place, read the technical paper: Root cause analysis report of deficient lockout of machines in Ontario pulp and paper operations.

For more information, please contact your WSN Health and Safety Specialist or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca

Top prevention tools:

Clear policies, training, and workplace health promotion

Technical paper provides detailed list of critical controls you can put in place

What causes inadequate or improper lockout of machines in the Ontario pulp and paper sector?

The top danger pulp and paper workers face is the inadequate or improper lockout of machines, according to pulp and paper industry subject matter experts from both labour and management.

What is lockout?

“Lockout or tagout” refers to specific practices and procedures to protect workers from unexpected startup or energization of machinery and equipment, especially during maintenance activities.

Proper lockout procedure requires a designated person who turns off and locks out machinery or equipment from its energy sources, before service or maintenance can begin. The authorized employee must either lock or tag the devices to prevent the release of hazardous energy, and takes steps to verify the energy has been effectively isolated.

If there is **any** potential for the release or accumulation of hazardous stored energy, the employer is required to ensure employees take steps to prevent any injury from the release of the stored energy.

About Workplace Safety North

Your health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario.

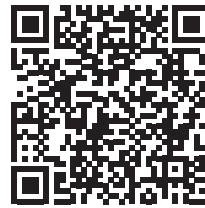
Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN provides province-wide Ministry-approved workplace health and safety training and services for the mining and forest products industries.

What to focus on immediately



Focus right away on the following four common mitigation actions to address current systemic weaknesses:

- A. Effective lockout training** - Trainer competency, evaluation, site-specific and real-life scenario training, knowledge transfer
- B. Workplace health promotion** - Address fatigue, mental health first aid, substance use
- C. Corporate lockout policy** - Current and accurate procedures, enforcement, communication, annual review, roles/responsibilities, lockout methods (site-specific)
- D. Development of engineered solutions** - Energy controls, artificial intelligence solutions



For a detailed list of critical controls you can put in place to help prevent inadequate machine lockout in the workplace, read the technical paper Root cause analysis report of deficient lockout of machines in Ontario pulp and paper operations.

For information on related training and resources, contact Workplace Safety North and help make your workplace safer today.

With health and safety specialists located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years.

A leading provider of health and safety training and consulting, businesses call upon WSN for expert advice and information.

For more information, please contact your WSN Health and Safety Specialist or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca



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