



# Minnesota Electrical Association

## Electrical Toolbox Talks

### Lockout/Tagout

#### Practical tips for Lockout/Tagout

- Lockout the panels during remodeling/renovation work. Many contractors fail to perform this important task beyond “flipping the switch.”
- Lockout switches or breakers when installing new fixtures on an existing circuit.
- 1926.405z(j)(1)(I) Live parts - Fixtures, lamp holders, lamps, rosettes, and receptacles shall have no live parts normally exposed to employee contact.
- 416(a)(1) No employer shall permit an employee to work in such proximity to any power circuit in any part of an electric power circuit that the employee could contact in the course of work, unless the employee is protected against electric shock by de-energizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it effectively or by other means.
- During service work, live electrical circuits should be de-energized before the employee works on or near them, unless the employer/employee can demonstrate that de-energizing introduces additional, or increased hazards or is not feasible due to equipment design or operational limitations.
- 1926.417(a) Controls that are to be deactivated during the course of work on energized or de-energized equipment or circuits shall be tagged.
- 1926.417(b) Equipment or circuits that are de-energized shall be rendered inoperative and shall have tags attached at all points where such equipment or circuits can be energized.
- 1926.417(c) Tags shall be placed to identify plainly the equipment or circuits being worked on.
- Magnetic covers over open panels can only be used if a certified electrician is on the same floor and in close proximity.
- Electricians are encouraged to take the time to find the main disconnect if not readily apparent in order to achieve lockout/tagout.



More information on Lockout/Tagout can be found in the OSHA Regulations 1926 Subpart K.

Version 2018

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