



Enforcement Summary: Lock and Tag Out Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2008, 22 fatalities resulted from failure to de-energize and lock out and tag equipment prior to working around or on equipment in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 56.12017 requires power circuits to be deenergized prior to work being done on the circuits unless hot-line tools are used. Power switches must be locked out or other measures taken to prevent the equipment from being energized without the knowledge of the individuals working on it. In addition, suitable warning notices must be posted at the power switch.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- making field repairs (splicing a cable, and connecting motor leads) to energized electrical systems.
- working on energized electrical circuits in electrical boxes.

30 C.F.R. § 56.14105 requires that repairs or maintenance of machinery or equipment be performed only after the power is off and the machinery or equipment is blocked against hazardous motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- clearing blockage from or cleaning crushers and conveyors.
- performing maintenance to crusher or conveyors systems.

30 C.F.R. § 56.16002(c) requires the supply and discharge of materials to have ceased and the supply and discharge equipment be locked out before persons enter bins, hoppers, silos, tanks, and surge piles, where loose unconsolidated materials are stored, handled or transferred.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- a reaction tank was entered without the controls for the supply of material being locked out.

¹ In many cases noncompliance with more than one standard contributed to the fatal accidents. These frequently cited standards are not the only standards cited for this accident category.