



A. Duplicate keys

Best practice is to have individually keyed locks, with no duplicates available. If bolt cutters must be used to remove a lock, that will make people think twice before endangering others.

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Slide # 20

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT

TRAINERS'S NOTES

If duplicates are available, they should be kept by a supervisor under lock and key. No one's lockout lock should be removed until the supervisor has exhausted all means of contacting the person who placed it.

Here's a case where that didn't happen.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE

Victor worked for a meat packing company. One day he and his crew were getting the line ready for a Food & Drug Administration inspection, a critically important event. When the crew went to perform maintenance on a piece of machinery known as a "gut table," they found it locked out. And they couldn't read the printing on the tag, so they couldn't tell whose lock it was. (See Slide #8.)

Company procedure here called for Victor to try to find the owner of the lock. If he couldn't, he was supposed to fill out a lock removal form and get two supervisors' signatures before going ahead. Feeling rushed by the proximity of the FDA inspection, he didn't.

Victor used a master key to remove the lock and powered up the "gut table" to check for faults. There was a scream from inside the machine. A female co-worker ran out with blood streaming from her wrist and her hand dangling, partly severed. She had been inside doing a preliminary inspection.

(ask the participants)

What did Victor do wrong?

Correct answer: Victor let his concern over the upcoming inspection blind him to the absolute need to make sure the owner of the lock wasn't endangered. If he had followed policy, a supervisor most likely would have insisted the owner be found before the machine was powered up.

Victor wasn't the only one to blame, though. The injured worker should have made sure her lock was identifiable, and the company shouldn't have furnished Victor with a key that would open somebody else's lock.

(Zamudio-Gonzales v. Monfort Inc., Kansas Division of Workers' Compensation)