

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

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Isolated Energy Sources

Energy Source Isolated is on the Critical Behavior Inventory checklist or VOLTS observation card under the Procedures category. Over the last few months, there have been a few observations that have talked about working on equipment that either wasn't tagged out or had energy pent up in that piece of equipment—even though that piece of equipment had clearance tags on it. The main focus of this article is to remind us who is responsible for making sure that a piece of equipment is safe to work on. Is it the operator who hung the tags? Is it the Supervisor? Station Manager? Your work partner? The Control Operator? The answer to this question is **you**. **You** are responsible for your own safety.

Before starting work on anything at IPSC, please go through this checklist in your mind.

- **What energy sources are connected to this equipment?**
- **What potential is there that one of those**

energy sources can cause harm to those around it?

- **Does this work need a clearance?** DWP System Operations Procedures, *Accident Prevention Tagging*, Operating Order No. 5.2, states that: "Electrical equipment and circuits designed for operation in excess of 50 volts, and vessels, piping, and other equipment designed for operation in excess of 15 psig or 130 degrees F or to contain hazardous substances" require a clearance.
- **Can this equipment start up at any time?** If it can start and maintenance needs to be performed on it, then clearance needs to be requested. Don't take chances working on energized equipment!
- **When a walkdown is performed on a piece of equipment, is it checked for clearance tags that might be needed in addition to ones already hung for different work?**
- **Will an operator hanging tags know for a fact**

Isolated Energy Sources, cont.

that another craftsperson will be safe when he/she works within the boundaries of the clearance? Are all energy sources isolated and pent-up energy relieved?

- **Do mechanics always follow the two-bolt rule?**

When taking flanges apart, are two bolts opposite each other left tight and then loosened slowly to release any pent-up air, water, steam, or other gases that could potentially harm people?

- **Should a Technical Services employee perform work live even if he/she has the ability?** Is that the right decision or should the electricity be shut off completely so no unnecessary chances are taken?
- **If an operator is working on a frozen belt, plugged chute, or any other running equipment, what is the best choice for everyone's safety?**

Remember...in the end it is each individual's call to make sure that all energy sources are isolated before work is started. If electrical work is being performed that requires grounding, make sure that the grounds are on! Everyone gets complacent at times—easily exposing themselves to life-threatening energy sources. Make the right call so you go home to your Why!

Energy Source Isolated Definition Examples:

- * Always walkdown clearance before signing on.
- * Contact the Control Operator if there is any question about your safety or the safety of the equipment.
- * When changing the cutting disk on a Metabo, unplug the grinder first.
- * Trip the breaker before changing the blade on the band saw.

Coaching Corner

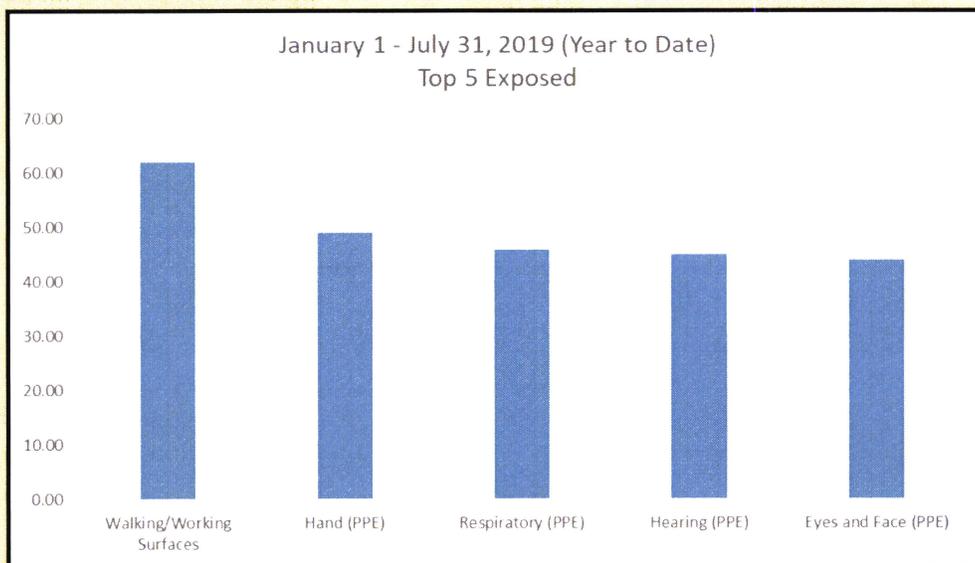
Encourage people to take care of their co-workers by urging them to wear their PPE.

When traveling through the plant, there are times that improved use of PPE is observed.

Other times, employees are

observed without wearing eye and head protection...it has been set aside for convenience sake while a dangerous job is being performed. One response to this complacency about PPE is that it won't be convenient if that employee can't watch his/her grandchildren participate in sporting events. Instead, he/she will have to be satisfied *listening* to the game...because he/she lost his/her vision.

As an IPSC organization, the VOLTS Steering Committee wants to promote the idea that safety



compliance needs to turn into a safety **commitment**.

“A culture of commitment is best described as people taking accountability for their own safety in addition to looking out for their co-workers; being able to approach

others—being *willing* to approach others—when we see our co-workers putting themselves at risk.

“If you care about somebody, you'd be willing to approach them when you see them putting themselves at risk. If you care about somebody you'll also hopefully recognize safe behavior so it's reinforced in the future.”

Fox, G. (2018). *Six Steps to Changing Your Company's Safety Culture*. Retrieved from <http://dekra-insight.com/images/ebooks/Six-Steps-to-Changing-Safety-Culture.pdf>.