



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
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December 5, 1996

Clayton Martin
City of Gresham Fire Service
1333 NW Eastman Parkway
Gresham OR 97030-3813

Dear Mr. Martin:

This is in response to your September 30, 1996 letter in which you ask for a rule interpretation on the use of group lockout by fire departments when responding to a chemical spill. Group lockout, at the present time, is permitted only through the variance process. OR-OSHA is, however, considering amending the present standard to allow group lockout outright. Changes to the fire fighter's standards will be proposed sometime after the first of the year. Your group may wish to provide comments on the issue of group lockout as a part of that rulemaking.

You also asked us to review your proposed group lockout procedures and to make any suggested changes.

Our suggestions are as follows:

When responding to a hazardous material incident where lockout procedures would be required, the following procedures should be used:

There must be a person (safety officer) appointed to administer the lockout procedures. This person does not enter the hot zone.

One person with knowledge of the system and equipment to be locked out is assigned to perform the lockout task.

Only open padlocks and lockout devices are to be carried into any hot zone. This precaution is necessary to control the number of items being contaminated and requiring cleaning.

Keys to all lockout devices entering the hot zone must be placed in a locked box under the control of the incident commander.

The safety officer must place their personal lock on the group lockout box, which must be the first lock on and the last lock off.

Each entrant entering the hot zone must be issued a padlock with an identification tag identifying the padlock holder.

Each person entering the hot zone first places their personal lock on the group lockout box, giving their key to the safety officer. This precaution is necessary to prevent contamination of the keys. The safety officer places the keys in a safe location under the officer's control and releases them only to the named key owner.

Once the hot zone has been cleared for reentry on a non-emergency basis and all employees have been accounted for and have removed their locks from the lockout box the person who placed the equipment locks then removes them to release the system.

A written record must be kept of all people entering the hot zone, recording the person's name, time of entry and exit from the zone.

If we can be of further assistance to you please contact Jerry Hoard at 378-3272 or through E-mail at: tech.web@state.or.us.

Please visit our web site on the Internet for information about OR-OSHA. We are located at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/index.html>.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division