Mobile machine lockout

Why it's important

Analysis of several recent fatalities and critical injuries involving mobile machines has identified a common element in these incidents: Operators or service technicians took shortcuts and ignored the hazards of unexpected release of energy while they were working on a machine.

How to control the hazards

General parking, shutdown and lockout procedure

- Wheeled and tracked machines should be parked on level ground, preferably over gravel or mineral soil to avoid fire hazards.
  - Level ground will help secure a wheeled machine. For both wheeled or tracked machines it provides a level platform from which to enter, exit and work on and around the machine.
  - Wheeled machines may need chocks.
- Lower all raised implements to the ground.
  - If the implemnents can't be lowered, a second person must assist in very carefully blocking the implement with material that is strong enough and properly placed to prevent the implement from suddenly shifting or falling.
- Allow the machine to idle down for a few minutes so that the cooling systems can reduce the high operation temperatures of the machine components to normal levels.
- Apply the parking brake.
  - Place the transmission in the manufacturer's specified park position.
- Engage all hydraulic safety locks.
- Ensure that all operating controls are in the inoperable position.
- Turn off the ignition and remove the key.
- Turn the master switch to the "off" position and if it's equipped with a key, remove the master switch key.
- Place a lockout tag on the master switch.
- Ensure that all types of energy, including hydraulic, thermal and electrical energy, have been dealt with safely.
- Make sure that any retaining pins, holding chains or lift pistons that retain access panels, screens or guards are positioned correctly and properly engaged before entering the area.
- If raised hydraulic implements are unavoidable, they must be safely blocked or otherwise supported to prevent them from falling to the ground.

Show and tell

Talk about your company's mobile machine lockout policy and procedures.

Strongly emphasize that in order to effectively protect the safety of workers, proper lockout procedures need to be followed every time without fail.

Notes:

OFSWA
Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association
Partners on the Road to Zero