



Weekly Safety Tip

“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”

Phone: 920-208-7520

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.

And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.



SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP



SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE



SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS

We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.

Let us know how you feel about our new look!

Safety Slogan

**One safe act can lead to another.
James Lehrke-SCI**

of the week

SCI Safety Tip: January is National Radon Action Month

Sources: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/index.html>

Date: December 12, 2012

Learn About Risk From Radon

You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 20,000 Americans each year. In fact, the EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools, and other buildings for radon. Exposure to radon is a preventable **health risk**, and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family.

- Read [A Citizen's Guide to Radon \[En Español\]](#) (PDF, 16 pp., 1.5 M, [Disponible en PDF](#))
- **Learn more about radon** - Here are a few ways you can learn more about radon and your home:
- Download EPA's [Basic Radon Facts \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp., 150 K, [about PDF](#)) [[En Español](#)] (PDF, 2 pp., 204 K)
- View or order EPA's [free radon publications](#).

Take Action in January

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. To browse activities that took place in your area and view results during the 2011 National Radon Action Month; read more about [Radon Leaders Saving Lives](#). If you would like to organize an event in your neighborhood, see the [Event Planning Kit](#) to get started.

1. **Four Things You Can Do During National Radon Action Month**
2. **Test your home** - EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive. Learn more about [testing your home](#), including how to obtain an easy-to-use test kit.
3. **Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area** - Look for radon events in your community. [Contact your state radon program](#) for more information about local radon activities.

4. Spread the word

- Spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.

Tell your family and friends about the [health risk](#) of radon. Encourage them to test their homes.

- [Plan an activity](#) in your community to help raise awareness. Use EPA's National Radon Action Month [Event Planning Kit](#) as a guide.
- Write an op-ed or letter to the editor. View tips and a sample op-ed and letter to the editor from EPA's National Radon Action Month [Event Planning Kit](#).
- Attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation. View tips and a sample proclamation from EPA's National Radon Action Month [Event Planning Kit](#).

5. Buy a radon-resistant home - If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use [radon-resistant new construction](#). Read more about radon-resistant new construction, "[Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes](#)".

Contact your [state radon program](#) for information about radon testing, mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction in your area.

SCI OSHA Compliance: OSHA Lockout/Tagout Rules: Q & A (Part 1)

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: December 31, 2012

There is a gap between the value of worker safety and the culture of safety in many organizations. Closing the gap is a major concern for safety professionals and executive managers.

Q. Can a duplicate key for the purpose of lock removal under LOTO be held in a secure area with a procedure in place for access to the key and returning the key that does not jeopardize the employee's safety?

A. An OSHA Letter of Interpretation, dated February 28, 2000, which discusses the use of a master key and alternate procedures to remove a lockout device, states the following, which may be applicable to your situation:

Bolt cutters, or other device-destructive methods, are not the only permissible means by which to remove a lockout device, if the employer can demonstrate that the specific alternative procedure, which the employer follows prior to removing the device, provides a degree of safety that is equivalent to the removal of the device by the authorized employee who first affixed it.

The use of a master key to remove a lockout device would be deemed equivalent (to the removal of the lock by the person who applied it) only if it is performed under the employer's direction and in accordance with the requirements established in 1910.147(e)(3).

Obviously, the "one person, one lock, one key" practice is the preferred means and is accepted across industry lines, but it is not the only method to meet the language of the standard. However, prior to the use of the master key method, specific procedures and training, meeting the §1910.147(e)(3) exception, must be developed, documented, and incorporated into your energy control program.

Among the features essential to a compliant master key procedure is a reliable method to ensure that access to the master key will be carefully controlled by the employer such that only those persons authorized and trained to use the master key in accordance with the employer's program can gain access.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living

PREVEA
Health & Wellness

Vitamin E

Research has demonstrated the broad role of vitamin E in promoting health. The main role of vitamin E is as an antioxidant. It helps protect your body from cell damage that can lead to cancer, heart disease and cataracts as we age. Vitamin E works with other antioxidants like vitamin C to offer protection from some chronic diseases. Vitamin E is found in vegetable oils, salad dressings, margarine, wheat germ, whole-grain products, seeds, nuts and peanut butter.

SCI Environmental Tip: What Confuses Everybody About Permits-by-Rule (Part 2)

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: December 21, 2012

U.S. EPA Approval

While states develop their own programs to control air pollution, those programs must be approved by the U.S. EPA, and the approval process extends to PBRs. One guidance document issued by U.S. EPA's Region 7 office lists 13 criteria the Agency uses when asked by a state to approve minor source preconstruction PBRs:

- The state must provide a demonstration of the relationship between the production and emission-related limits chosen for the rule, showing that the rule is protective of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- The definition of the sources covered by the rule should be clear.
- The rule should specify acceptable ranges or limits on operating conditions, such as production-related parameters and rates as well as emissions rates and emissions control parameters. The emissions limits should be set no higher than the maximum limits in the worst-case modeling scenario.
- Technical support for the rule should specify emissions control objectives, e.g., capture efficiency and control efficiency.
- The rule should specify the deadline (e.g., 30 or 60 days before construction) for both new and existing sources to apply for coverage and the effective start date of coverage.
- The rule should require notification from the source before coverage under the rule. The notification should include information necessary for the state to determine that the source is appropriately covered under the rule.
- The rule should require some type of affirmative action by the state on the notification; this would be, at a minimum, a written record of acknowledgment of receipt of the notification and the date coverage began.
- The rule should allow the state to deny coverage, at any time, for cause, under the rule on a case-by-case basis and instead require a construction permit.
- If mass balance procedures are used to verify coverage and/or compliance, the explicit methodology (e.g., equations and variable descriptions) should be made clear in the rule.



What do you think?
Send us an email at:
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See our bold new look @
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

*In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lefrke*