

PROMOTING SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

MANUFACTURING SAFETY INNOVATIONS



LOCKOUT ZONE SAFETY CURTAINS

INNOVATION DESCRIPTION

THE PROBLEM:

A review of previous lockout violations revealed several preventable, low-risk incidents. Employees inadvertently entered locked-out areas that were unprotected from the removal of gates or guards during maintenance or cleanup. Despite being locked out by other employees, accessing these areas without proper lockout procedures remains a risk. To address this issue, these areas were classified as “lockout traps,” and a plan was developed to identify when guards, gates, or doors are left open.

THE SOLUTION:

The safety committee proposed a simple, cost-effective solution to maintain secure restricted lockout zones while allowing safe worker access. They recommended customizable red PVC strip curtains as hazard indicators when barriers are removed. These **LOCKOUT ZONE SAFETY CURTAINS** ensure safe and unrestricted access during lockout tasks.

HOW TO APPLY THE SOLUTION:

During maintenance and cleanup, restricted areas are often locked out and opened for access, introducing hidden hazards and risks of inadvertent entry by other personnel. Installing **LOCKOUT ZONE SAFETY CURTAINS**, will identify the boundaries of restricted areas without compromising safe access for those working inside the area.

INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT

This manufacturing safety innovation was developed by the Interfor Adams Lake Division’s Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee and was championed by Kyle Schumi, sawmill chargehand and safety committee co-chair.



BCFSC would like to share manufacturing safety innovations to promote safety in the workplace. To submit your safety innovation email Bill Laturnus at blaturnus@bcforestsafes.org