IMA-NA CASE STUDY #9
Superior Silica Sands Strengthens Lockout/Tagout Procedures

• Workers are at risk of serious injuries and death during maintenance and servicing of machinery if lockout/tagout procedures are not followed.

• Superior Silica Sands believes these types of accidents can be prevented if operators follow simple lockout/tagout procedures.

• Superior Silica Sands observed that lockout/tagout procedures were ignored for the following reasons: 1) the prevention of lost production time, 2) supervisors praised fast repair, 3) the desire to finish a job before going home, and 4) the tasks would only take a few seconds, so why bother to lockout/tagout.

• The company decided to implement task training that included: discussion of safe work procedures, identifying the hazards associated with each task and determining the proper lockout/tagout procedures.

• The program also included the issuance of a lock to each employee with their name inscribed, along with tags for recording the time and date.

• Employees were encouraged to remember the real reasons for following proper lockout/tagout procedures including protecting themselves, family members, co-workers, friends and the company.

• Superior Silica Sands, after they implemented the new task training plan, has not had any injuries due to non-compliance with lockout/tagout procedures.