Borates HSEQ Initial Alert

Incident Number:



Incident: Contractor entering Dome 2 without proper lock out

Preliminary Classification:

Observed hazard with key learnings

Critical Control: Isolation and Lockout

Operation / Project: Boron (RTB)

Date: 18/02/2019

Location: Dome 2

Time: 2:30 pm

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What happened:

Contractor employee was scheduled to inspect crane hoist. The dome was locked out with partial lock out allowing Rio Tinto employee to perform product pushing to the feeder in middle of the dome. Same lock out was used to perform the crane hoist inspection, no one realized at that time that this partial lock out was not appropriate for this new task. Only 3 days later it was noticed that the lock out was a partial lockout.

Preliminary findings:

- Environment: at no time the filling belt or feeding screw was activated (no imminent danger)
- Equipment: 2 contractor employees were using a man lift to perform the work. The dome filling belt is equipped with an interlock that was working.
- People: The Dome operator was aware of contractor work going on in Dome 2. The lock out procedure was followed, signed by operator, verified and signed by supervisor, none of them realising it was the partial lock out instead of the full lock out. All maintenance work in the Domes need to be done with complete lock out.

TRAINED

Initial learnings:

- Environment: none
- Equipment: none
- People: The partial lock out was uncomplete (missing the filling belt and 2 side feeders). New isolation procedure was implemented without proper verification leading to required items being overlooked.