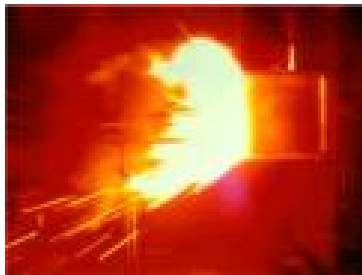


Arc Flash

The Hazard

An electrical arc is produced by the flow of current through ionized air after a flashover or short circuit. Electrical arcs produce localized temperatures four times hotter than that of the sun – releasing dangerous levels of radiant heat energy that will vaporize all known materials. This can result in severe burns, spraying drops of molten metal, toxic gases and may also heat the air to produce blast pressure waves similar to that of a bomb.



The Legislation

The hazards associated with Arc Flash are officially recognized in the United States by OSHA where they have legislated responsibility to employers to:

- Assess hazards in the workplace.
- Select, have, and use the correct PPE.
- Document the assessment.

The NFPA70E, which is a National Consensus Standard was developed by the NFPA at the request of OSHA to augment their regulations. It establishes requirements for a Flash Protection Boundary, Energized Work Permits, and the levels of PPE required for working at various levels.

Arc Flash Analysis

Based on available fault levels and the time required to clear the fault, our Arc Flash Power Study calculates the potential arc flash protection boundary and incident energy to which workers could be exposed while working on or near electrical equipment. The flash protection boundary is the distance a worker not wearing flame-resistant personal protective equipment (PPE) must stay away from the electrical equipment. The incident energy determines level of PPE required to complete the work.

Reducing Risk From Arc Flash

We can work with our customer and your site personnel to define the magnitude of the hazard and develop a suitable Safety Program; where exposure can't be avoided. We can assist your company by recommending safety procedures to minimize dangers, providing workers within danger zones suitable PPE, and a means for ongoing Safety Training.