



## Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



### Capacitor Safety Message

Although capacitors are simple devices, they are extremely dangerous after they have been disconnected from service because they can retain a charge. They are required to be built with bleed resistors that reduce their voltage to fewer than 50 volts after five minutes. However, never take anything for granted. It is imperative to wait five minutes after disconnect and then short across the bushings with a jumper wire using a shotgun stick. Before beginning work on any capacitor that is mounted on a pole, always follow these procedures because the capacitor can hold a charge without any indication that it is doing so.

When removing capacitors from service, the following steps cannot be emphasized enough:

- Disconnect from the source.
- Wait five minutes for the charge to drain off.
- Short-circuit the bushings or, in the case of single-bushing capacitors, place a short circuit between bushing and case.
- Keep the short-circuit connection in place until the capacitor is to be connected for service.

**Know the location of all the capacitors on your system**