



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Electric Arc Flash Safety Message

The arc hazard associated with energized conductors extends much greater distance than the shock hazard.

- * 80% of all electrical injuries are burns and are a result of an arc-flash and ignition of flammable clothing.
- * Arc temperature can reach 35,000°F

The unique quality of the arc hazard is that it is not voltage sensitive. In some cases, it is possible (and probable) to generate a higher arc energy from a low-voltage source than from a high-voltage source. The distance from the arc, as well as the duration of the arc, will determine how much heat an employee will be exposed to.

Arc-Flash Burns

- * Treatment of burns associated with electrical arc is often lengthy.
- * A common rule of thumb, used by burn center physicians and nurses, is that if the sum of the percentage of the body burned and the patient's age is greater than 100, the chances of survival are minimal.
- * **This grim statistic is why it is essential that personnel be trained to avoid creating the hazard and *protecting themselves with the proper PPE.***