



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



The Importance of Arc Flash Protection Safety Message

Arc flash is the exposure to the tremendous thermal energy released by an arc fault. All employees who work around energized electrical equipment (electricians, maintenance workers, operators, etc.) may be affected by an arc flash occurrence.

The four dangerous elements of an arc flash are: **intense light, pressure wave, acoustic energy, and thermal energy**. An arc flash blast usually lasts less than a second, and leads to an explosion and a flash fire. When a worker is close to the location where the accident happens, serious burns and even death can occur.

The NFPA 70E Standard requires that all employees wear arc-rated clothing "wherever there is possible exposure to an arc flash above the threshold incident-energy level for a second degree burn."

80% of all electrical injuries are burns and are a result of an arc-flash and ignition of flammable clothing.

Many of those are to the face and neck!

Remember the standards set the "**Minimum Requirements**" and my personal opinion is that when it comes to "Face Shields" the standards need to be changed.