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MYTHS ABOUT ARC FLASH STUDY

MYTH NO: **1**

Arc flash explosions do not happen… I have never seen one… It will not happen to me

REALITY:

Electrical work by nature is dangerous due to the high energy levels involved and until an accident occurs, we will not realize the fact as electricity is odorless, colorless, and it is invisible.

Every industrial/ commercial power system is potentially risky. Specifically, Electrical shock and Arc Flash are more vulnerable for workers while handling energized Electrical equipment.

MYTH NO: **2**

Regular Thermography of Electrical equipment rules out, an Arc Flash analysis

REALITY:

Thermography only helps to detect Electrical equipment failure because of loose connections. Overheating of conductive parts may cause an Arc. However, most of Arc Flash caused only can be avoided through regular **Arc-Flash analysis of the facility and regular safety training programs.**

MYTH NO: **3**

“Working on low-voltage equipment, I don’t have to worry about Arc Flash.”

REALITY:

The simple answer is **NO** because an Arc Flash is a burst of energy, not solely electricity, so the voltage of the electrical system in which it occurs isn’t the major factor in the scale of the blast. Due to the high fault currents, **Arc Flash hazard levels may be higher at low voltages.**

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MYTH NO: **4**

"We are executing maintenance/ troubleshooting in De-Energized condition… We never require Arc Flash Study"

REALITY:

The term "de-energized" is widely misunderstood. Lockout/Tagout and "de-energized" are not the same, and **NFPA-70E** refers to establishing an electrically safe work condition, which also involves more than "de-energizing."

OSHA maintains that all works performed on electrical equipment are considered energized, with **all necessary shock and arc-flash personal protective equipment worn.**

MYTH NO: **5**

"Arc flash analysis is simply panel labelling"

REALITY:

It is not just labelling the panels. An analysis is about hazard reduction and detecting possible faults that may occur in the system. It is a preventative measure to avoid Arc flash hazards. Such measurements determine the adequate PPE required.

MYTH NO: **6**

"Defining PPE is the only objective of Arc Flash Study"

REALITY:

PPE may be used as a temporary control measure until another alternative is installed. However, the Main objective of the Arc Flash Study is to mitigate the effects of the Arc Flash Hazards by **introducing suitable mitigation technics.**