



HAZARD ALERT

ARC FLASH CREATES FIREBALL



An electrical accident occurred on October 10, 2010, that caused the death of one contract electrician and seriously injured two coworkers. They were installing ground fault indicator lights in a circuit breaker enclosure when an arc flash occurred. They were not aware the circuit breaker enclosure contained a bottom feed circuit breaker and had locked out the wrong disconnect switch.

Best Practices

- After opening the correct load break switch, always ensure the correct visual disconnect is opened, locked, and suitably tagged prior to working on any portion of the electrical circuit.
- Always ensure there is no voltage inside an electrical enclosure prior to working on it.
- Properly label visual disconnecting devices to identify the circuit they protect.
- Place warning labels on the terminal covers of bottom feed circuit breakers stating that the “Bottom terminal lugs remain energized when the circuit breaker is open.”
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as defined in NFPA 70E (Standard for Electrical Safety in the workplace) when doing any electrical work.