ARC FLASH STATISTICS

An arc flash occurs when an electric current passes through air between conductors, from a conductor to ground instead of its intended path.

THE ARC ACROSS AN AIR GAP CAN RESULT IN TEMPERATURES AS HIGH AS

35,000 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, 4X HOTTER THAN THE SURFACE OF THE SUN.

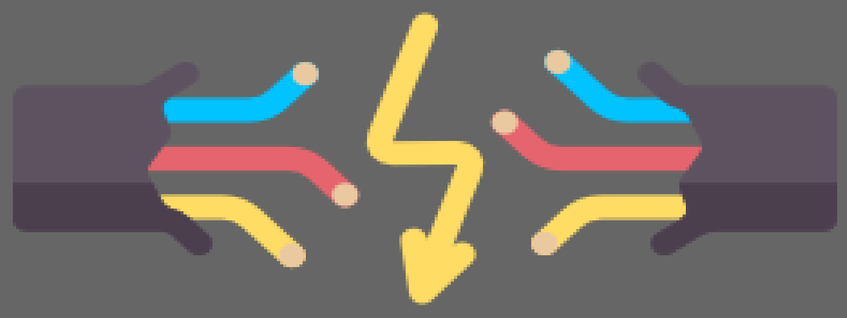
7,000

Burn injuries, as a result of arc flash incidents, occur each year.

Arc flashes can cause forces greater than

2,000

pounds per square foot.



30,000 EACH YEAR

FACTS

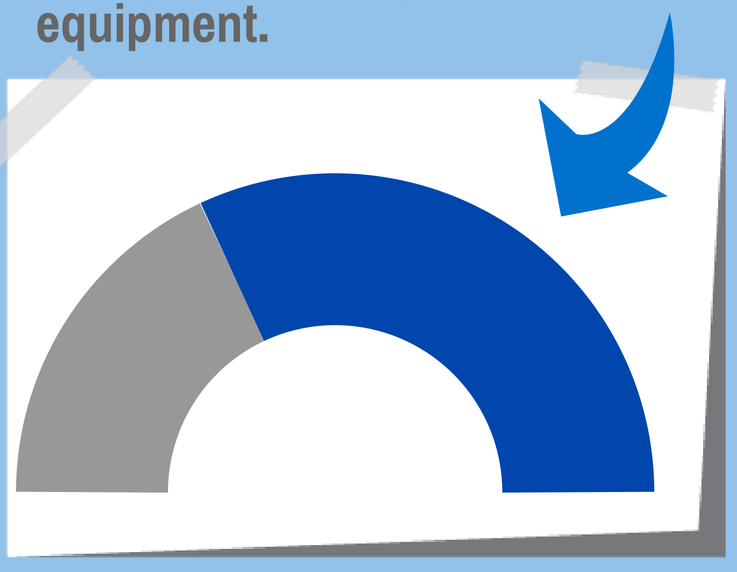
5-10 PER DAY (US)

HOW OFTEN DO THEY OCCUR?

Despite the preventative measures available, approximately 30,000 arc flash incidents occur every year. According to a 2007 study, 5 to 10 arc flashes occur every day in the United States. **Nearly all of these result in injuries, and sometimes, fatalities.**

CAUSES

TWO-THIRDS of all arc flash incidents are caused by worker error, mainly by the worker failing to de-energize the equipment.



Electrical systems with operating voltages over 120V are susceptible to arc flash incidents.

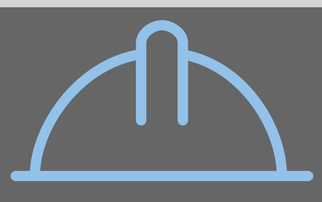
Even small errors can produce arc flash occurrences.

CALCULATING THE COSTS

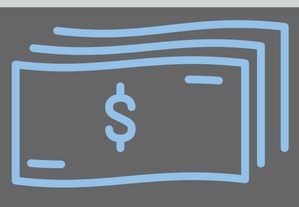
80%

1-2 ARC FLASH RELATED **DEATHS** OCCUR EVERY DAY.

OF FATALITIES ARE A RESULT OF **BURNS,** NOT SHOCK.



PROPER USE OF PPE COULD HAVE PREVENTED **39%** OF ELECTRICAL BURN INJURIES IN 2010.



AVERAGE LITIGATION COST TO A COMPANY AFTER AN ARC FLASH INCIDENT IS **$10 - $15 MILLION.**

73%

Of arc flash occurrences were recorded in facilities listed as "average" or "good" in 2007.

WITH THE 2017 NEC, ARC FLASH PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENTS ARE BECOMING STANDARDIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Source: "OSHA Statistics About Arc Flashes." Technical Skills Development, Vista College.

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