



**SECTION 30**

**ARC FLASH PROTECTION POLICY**



### 1. Protection Against Arc Flash

- A.** Policy: An arc flash is a “dangerous condition associated with the release of energy caused by an electric arc.” An arc flash is an explosion causing severe burns, injuries and/or death depending on the severity.

Most workers realize that electrical shock is potentially life threatening, but many do not understand that wearing clothing that is not flame resistant can result in severe harm or death if it is ignited in an electrical arc flash.

- B.** Purpose: While it is the policy of Maul Electric, Inc. to de-energize the power source before performing any work on the system, we understand that at times it is necessary to be exposed to the energy source (i.e. Investigative work). Before the point of exposure, we need to protect the worker from a potential arc flash that is always possible due to the presence of a power source. The means of proper PPE and levels of protection are simplified with the use of fire resistant garments that meet the hazard risks.

Keep in mind that the use of these suits, are only needed when you are being exposed to energy, or you are attempting to tie-in or are making contact with the power source. Once the potential for an arc flash is either removed or isolated, and the worker is protected, the protective suit is no longer needed (i.e. the panel cover is back on).

It is the policy of Maul Electric, Inc. that all employees use the following PPE in order to protect themselves against Arc Flash occurrences.

- C.** Exposure: to under 600 volts:
1. Nomex full body jump suit
  2. Properly rated gloves
  3. Dielectric hard hat
  4. Full amber face shield
  5. Dielectric booties to slip over work boots
- D.** Examples of work performed at this level: (examples not intended to be all inclusive of every type of work!)
1. Removing any panel covers or barriers of energized equipment to perform investigative functions or inspections.
  2. Working in a panel with the line side energized and the panel cover removed.
  3. Installing a breaker into an energized electrical panel.
  4. Pulling cables or wiring into energized panels.
  5. Pulling or installing fuses into energized parts.



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- E. Exposure to over 600 volts:
1. The level of protection for 600 volts and above will be a fullbody 40cal. High Voltage Suit complete with a full Head Hood, Dielectric booties, and properly ratted High Voltage gloves.
  2. Examples: Work performed at this level: (examples not intended to be all inclusive of every type of work!)
    - a. Removing any gear covers or barriers of energized equipment to perform investigative functions or inspections.
    - b. Installing protective blankets or insulating devices on Buss work (i.e. rubbering up) in an active High Voltage Substation.
    - c. Racking in a breaker into an energized electrical cabinet.
    - d. Pulling cables or wiring into energized switchgear.
    - e. Pulling or installing cut-outs on a utility pole.
  3. Contact your Foreman or supervisor to obtain an Maul Electric, Inc. Arc Flash Protection Kit which will have all of the above mentioned PPE. Check the kits before use to insure that all of the high voltage PPE has a current inspection certification. Do not use if it has expired!