

Basics of Arc Flash



What is arc flash?

An arc flash occurs when part of an electrical current diverts from its intended path and travels through the air between available conductors.

What are the dangers of arc flash?

The surface of the sun is estimated to be about 9,932 °F. Temperatures of an arc flash can reach as high as 35,000 °F. At these temperatures, clothes will catch fire and there is a high likelihood of skin, lung, and eyesight damage.

What causes arc flash?

Causes of arc flash can include:

- Human error; touching a test probe to the wrong surface or dropped equipment
- Condensation
- Loose or worn-out connections or incorrectly installed parts
- Gaps in the existing insulation
- Dust
- Corrosion