

COMMERCIAL AGENTS & UNDERWRITERS: BEWARE THE ARC FLASH EXPOSURE!

ARC Flash Safety - a Code of Federal Regulation

Professional licensed insurance agents and company underwriters understand that knowledge is power. Especially when it comes to matters of legal "liability!" Unfortunately far too many commercial insurance agents and underwriters do not know about a serious issue that recently came into the forefront. Arc Flash Safety! Since 2014 the subject has been the topic of much discussion with the NFPA, OSHA and Fire Marshals across the U. S.

Ask any Lawyer... they'll tell you, there is no excuse for ignorance of the Law. But how can today's commercial building owners learn about all the new laws, codes and federal regulations constantly being imposed upon them? Many rely on a licensed insurance agent to advise them while others appoint a competent building manager to help them protect their assets and limit their liability, which is not always

easy. Especially when it comes to matters most people know very little about, like electricity!



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How do I know this? As a Certified TEGG Representative and the Director of Electrical Safety & Code Compliance for Carpenter Electric in West Palm Beach, I've been in over 350 buildings in the past four years and I've seen it first-hand.

Condominiums, water treatment

plants, sports stadiums, high-rise office buildings, manufacturing and medical facilities... most of them are not aware of OSHA's General Duty Clause! (Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety

and Health Act) which requires an employer to furnish to its employees: employment and a place of employment which are free from all recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to its employees.

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Then again, some simply choose to ignore this administrative law figuring it will never happen to them... and if it does they'll deal with it then. Not a wise move!

What does this recently finalized OSHA regulation mean to all "General Industry" building owners? It means; if you employ people to work in your building, it better be safe from all recognized hazards. Or if you hire an outside electrical contractor it's the building owner's responsibility to make sure the worker is fully trained in NFPA 70E codes.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 70E, "Standards for Electrical Safety in the Workplace" these are just some of the codes: 110.1, 110.2, 200.1 and 205.3 that spell it out pretty clearly. The building owner or the owners designated representative is responsible for training, testing and documenting the training of qualified electrical workers. What's more, they must develop a mitigation strategy to reduce the risks of an Arc Flash explosion, make sure every measure has been taken to ensure "safety related work practices" are in place, see to it electrical equipment is properly

maintained to manufacturer's specifications and ensure there is no evidence of impending failure.

So what is the best way to ensure every commercial building owners' facility is in full compliance with the NFPA 70E & OSHA's new "CFR" code of federal regulation 29 CFR



The Sudden Release of Energy In an Arc Flash Can be Deadly

1910.269, which became law on July 10, 2014? First, purchase a copy of NFPA 70E and read it. Then locate a competent NFPA 70E trainer in your area and schedule a comprehensive Arc Flash Safety Training seminar. Upon completion, every attendees will understand what is expected of them and learn how to protect their assets; buildings, employees, customers and vendors. This knowledge is especially important for insurance underwriters, agents and building owners... because it

will make sure everyone involved knows how to limit their liability when it comes to electricity.

Therefore, if you are a licensed commercial insurance agent or a company underwriter and you wish to be viewed in your market place as a knowledgeable professional... make sure you know the truth, get the facts and advise your clients wisely. Arc Flash safety is a real problem in America. Far too many building owners and managers are hiring people or using outside so-called electricians who are performing electrical tasks without the proper training and documentation.

Just Google motivational speaker and double amputee, Hector Picard who lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of his right arm and $\frac{1}{2}$ of his left arm in an Arc Flash explosion several years ago in Miami Florida. You can find plenty of his videos on YouTube. Although his message "Don't Stop Living" is quite inspirational, his life altering injuries were totally and completely avoidable!

Need an Arc Flash inspection for a client or carrier you care about? Contact my friend Marty Perrone at (561) 294-4886 or email him at martyp@carpenter-electric.com - Editor