



CLOSE CALL

Electrical Flash/ Burn



On November 20, 2008, four miners (two supervisors and two hourly workers) received flash burns while working on a section power center. A top cover of the 13800 VAC power center had been removed to facilitate the activities. Miners were attempting to find and correct the reason for nuisance trips on a circuit breaker that protected 995 VAC 3-phase power circuits. During the troubleshooting and repair activities, electrical connections were made that were not design specification. A phase to phase short circuit occurred between two phases of the 995 VAC on the line side of the circuit breaker that resulted in a high current arc flash. The heat and blast of the arc exited the power center enclosure through the opening in the top of the power center.

Best Practices:

1. Follow safe trouble shooting and repair procedures.
2. Consult documentation and electrical diagrams for the equipment that requires trouble shooting or repair activities.
3. Maintain electrical safety devices in design specification.
4. Always wear PPE during electrical trouble shooting and repair activities.

