An arc flash is a dangerous condition associated with the release of energy caused by an electrical arc. The flash causes an explosion with temperatures up to 35,000-degrees F, dangerous pressure and sound waves, thermal radiation, and shrapnel. This can cause serious damage to your personnel and facility, lengthy downtime, and expensive regulatory fines.

An Arc Flash Risk Assessment is required by OSHA and can be used to determine:

- Flash Protection Boundaries
- Incident Energy Value
- Proper Hazard Categorization of equipment
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Arc Flash Risk Mitigation.

**WHY SHOULD I HAVE AN ARC FLASH RISK ASSESSMENT?**

1. **OSHA General Duty Clause which states:**
   Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

   Qualified electrical workers shall not be asked to work on equipment that is “hot” or “live” except for two reasons:
   1. De-energizing introduces additional or increased hazards such as cutting ventilation to a hazardous location
   2. Due to equipment design or operational limitations such as doing voltage testing for diagnostics

3. **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.335**
   “Employees working in areas where potential electrical hazards exist shall be provided with and shall use personal protective equipment.”

4. **NFPA 70e 110.A**
   The employer shall implement and document an overall electrical safety program that directs activity appropriate to the risk associated with electric hazards. The electrical safety program shall be implemented as apart of the employer’s overall occupational health and safety management system, when one exists.

**About Thompson Specialty Services**

Thompson Specialty Services specializes in providing unique electrical services to keep your facilities and people safe, your business in compliance with government and safety requirements, your electrical systems running at optimal energy efficiency levels, and help you reduce the ever-growing energy costs.

Contact us today for more information on how we can help your business operate safely, energy efficiently, cost effectively, and in compliance for years to come.

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