



SAFETY ALERT #35



August 24, 2009

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

WORKER BURNED BY AN ARC FLASH FROM AN EXTENSION CORD

What Happened

An employee (Welder/Fabricator) was attempting to plug in an extension cord from a 240 volt, 3 phase disconnect to a welding unit. The extension cord and welder had twist-lock plugs and socket ends. The plug and wire were both large and the employee held the plug and socket end at his waist to make the connection. When the connection was made two of the conductors inside the connector shorted out causing an arc flash, and burns to the employee's abdomen. The employee was not wearing his personal protective equipment properly – The external button-up shirt (FRC material) was completely unbuttoned and shirt-tail out.

Prevention:

- Evaluate each facility and related equipment to assess the requirement for hard wiring equipment where temporary wiring is unacceptable to meet manufacturer's specifications.
- Establish a list of qualified and authorized users for each piece of equipment.
- Inspect all equipment that requires plug and socket connectors greater than 120 VAC to ensure that all connectors are adequately sized and in good condition, and that the cord is of adequate length and size to meet all manufacturer's specifications (Extension cords should not be used).
- Provide instruction to all authorized users of equipment that all connections must be made with electrical the power "OFF" or power source otherwise locked out.
- Once all electrical connections have been made the equipment may be energized by placing the electrical disconnect or breaker in the "ON" position. Stand to the side when moving the breaker or the equipment power switch to the "ON" position.
- Inspect all equipment cords, plugs, sockets and electrical components at least monthly and daily before each use.
- All personal protective equipment must be worn correctly at all times while in the work area.

