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150 SAFETY

150 Safety Committee

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Temporary Panelboards and Power Distribution Safety

Prior to starting a task whether it is first thing in the morning, after break, after lunch, after obtaining material etc.....

- ALWAYS check for hazards
- BE CERTAIN your Lockout/Tagout controls are in place
- USE your voltage tester prior to working on all circuits

Any Construction Work - New or Remodel poses many DANGERS - one in particular seems to always present itself

Recently on a new construction site it was brought to the attention of the Foreman that

- UNQUALIFIED individuals were going into temporary panels to find the circuit breaker that fed power to their work area receptacles - **How many breakers were operated to find the right one?**
- A Pipefitter needed to start up a variable frequency drive to test his equipment - UNLOCKED the panel and energized the 480 volt circuit himself - **Couldn't wait for the Electrician?**

As the Temporary Panels and Building Power Panels were energized throughout the course of the job - The Electrical Foreman ensured that all of the electrical panel doors were locked and maintained custody of the keys to prevent UNAUTHORIZED access to the panels

Over time most Electrician's will accumulate keys from jobsites - Power panel keys, FA panel keys, gang box keys, etc.. Other trades are no different - **It is virtually impossible to prevent them from obtaining the Square D or Cutler Hammer or GE key that allows them access to all of the jobsite panelboards**

THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE especially if you are the one working on a piece of equipment that you have placed in an "Electrically Safe Work Condition" as per NFPA 70E

WHAT CAN BE DONE or WHAT IS BEING DONE to keep UNQUALIFIED PERSONS out of the jobsites panelboards or switchgear?

Submit your ideas to the Safety Committee - will include in the next 150 Safety Newsletter

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