New Information on NFPA 70-E 2015: Is YOUR Facility Risking an Electrical Disaster? The Latest from Industry and OSHA

The most effective and foolproof way to eliminate the risk of electrical shock or arc flash is to simply de-energize the equipment. But, in some cases, turning off the power is just not possible. Understanding arc flash and its potential hazards, calculating risk, knowing the importance of labeling, and the proper use of PPE can maintain the effective use of live electrical equipment and parts.

Essentially, OSHA and NFPA requirements should be followed to develop and implement an effective electrical safety program—and ultimately save lives. A number of OSHA standards are cited in relation to arc flash hazards.

The NFPA 70E national consensus standard is a comprehensive standard that contains detailed information on how to protect workers from arc flashes. Employers must consider and adopt NFPA 70E when employees work on an electrical system.

NFPA 70E is not an OSHA requirement. But that does not matter. OSHA requires employers to protect employees from electrical hazards, including arc flash. OSHA issues citations based on the requirements of NFPA 70E through existing Agency regulations.

New standards are in effect for 2015. Compliance with the spirit of “29 CFR 1910 Subpart S” is more than a “simple arc flash study”. Understanding the components to compliance and ensuring a safer and more productive workplace is essential for your company to avoid a costly fine or endangering your employees.

Join the Facility Manager Association of New Mexico at 7 am on Wednesday, March 18th, 2015, at Garduno’s Uptown Restaurant to hear important news on the updated mandates for 2015. Speaker Jeff Platter is President of BPC International Inc. His engineering firm is the oldest infrared inspection company in the Americas. Jeff is the co-founder of the “Oklahoma Predictive Maintenance User’s Group” (OPMUG), a non-profit which focuses on educating companies in the region about reliability technologies and principles for improved member profits. Jeff and his staff have completed several hundred arc flash assessments for both private and government entities. This information is key for plant engineers, facilities managers and environmental health and safety specialists to gain insight into electrical safety.

ALSO on hand, representing OSHA, is Robert Dunington who will provide direct information on his agency’s movement towards ramping up their involvement with compliance for this important life/safety mandate.

Reservations are always required. Go online to www.fmanm.com and click on the RSVP tab on the home page to register and pay online (preferred) or email carolee@fmanm.com to sign up. FIRST TIME FACILITY MANAGERS ARE ALWAYS FREE. Members pay $30; non-members pay $35.
execute your role (like how the membership role for this organization was initially recorded on a yellow legal pad) but suffice it to say, we’ve come a long way, baby! The latest replacement to the yellow legal pad is ONLINE REGISTRATION to signal your intention to attend the monthly breakfast meeting, pay for your Isotopes tickets in June, register your team of championship-level golfers in July, or save your place for the fabulous FAB O&M Show in October.

Online registration is fast and easy. On the Facility Manager Association of New Mexico homepage, scroll to this box:

Follow the prompts, pay with your credit card, and you’re DONE! Sure, you still have to network with the state’s preeminent facility managers and suppliers while you pick up your nametag, but the days of looking for the ATM or asking for an in-arears invoice are finally over! Special thanks to FMA board members Dave Jensen, Lori Gunnare, Kevin Givens, and webmaster Roy Evans for their work on this particular project.

See you in March! Register away!

FMANM Vision Statement: Establish and implement an organization to promote education, information, solutions and opportunities associated with the operations, maintenance, and sustainability of facilities.

Upcoming Events Calendar 2015

**Wednesday, March 18th**
7:00 am, Garduno’s Uptown
NFPA 70-E: Is YOUR Facility in Compliance?

**Wednesday, April 15th**
7:00 am, Garduno’s Uptown
Solar or Not? Which Applications Benefit Your Facility?

**Wednesday, May 20th**
7:00 am, Garduno’s Uptown
San Juan Chama Water Project Update
New Businesses, New Legislation, New Incentives Presented in February

In his 13 years representing for Albuquerque Economic Development, a private non-profit aimed at helping existing local businesses and attracting new ones, Bob Walton, Vice President, has enabled over 1400 companies to grow and expand. “Inquiries into the Albuquerque market are on the increase,” he said, “with 50 active projects in progress, and 52% of them involved in manufacturing.” The local market has been saturated in years passed with customer service back-office call centers which, while they create jobs, do not contribute exportable goods to the New Mexico economy.

Titan Aerospace, United Poly, S&P Data, Gandy Dancer, Comcast, and Flagship Foods were among the companies who are new or expanding their businesses in the Albuquerque area.

Bob also spoke on legislation making its way through the Round House which aims to provide tax incentives for manufacturers, about plans for corporate tax relief to make us more competitive, and explained how manufacturing companies should not be paying gross receipts taxes on utilities and consumables. He also spoke about job training incentives which are made available to local businesses, where up to one-half of an employee's salary can be paid for six months if he is working for a company which will ultimately export a certain percent of their goods.

Before closing, Bob moderated a spirited discussion on the impact of “right-to-work” laws on the future of job development in the state. His decision to bring Allied Signal Power Systems to New Mexico in 1998 was heavily impacted and influenced by these laws.
Economic Development continued
CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT WWW.FMANM.COM

Risking an Electrical Disaster?

Wednesday, March 18th

Make reservations now to join the Facility Manager Association of New Mexico to hear important information on short circuit studies and how OSHA is stepping up enforcement. You must rsvp by 5 pm on Monday, Mar. 16th, to be included. Please visit www.fmanm.com to register online. Credit cards accepted.

When: Wednesday, March 18th, 2015, at 7:00 a.m.
(Arrive early for coffee and connections)

Where: Garduno’s Uptown
2100 Louisiana Boulevard NE
Albuquerque, NM (505) 880-0055

Cost: $30 to Members
$35 to Non-Members

Join us for a Southwestern style breakfast buffet!

CNM Scholarship Fund Endowed in February

The Facility Manager Association of New Mexico has the greater goal of raising money to give to scholarship for tradesmen and women who are entering the HVAC, electrical, building controls, and plumbing trades. At the February meeting the FMA board--from left, Carolee Griffin, Lori Gunnare, Mike Chavez, Mary Beth Hames, and Jessica Leyva present CNM’S Samantha Starr with a check for $4,500.00. To Samantha’s left are Kevin Givens, Tom Plummer, Selby Lucero, and Dave Jensen, also FMA board members.

Money for this scholarship and another at UNM come from proceeds from the annual golf tournament and the FMA trade show which is held each fall.