

Common Questions related to Electrical Safety / Arc flash Training

Question: Who should attend electrical safe work practices training?

Answer:

- NFPA 70E article 110.2 defines the requirements for electrical safety training to be for employees who face a risk of an electrical hazard....
- The training would apply to those working with or around electrical equipment.
- Those responsible for safety, facility operations, maintenance or overall company activities.
- OSHA has cited companies for “those auditing employees who are not qualified to perform the tasks that they are auditing” - so the people in charge must have the same level of training as those working with the tools.

Question: Does the required training need to be "OSHA Approved"?

Answer:

- There is no such thing as a NFPA 70E or OSHA “Certification”.
- Although companies are advertising it that way , what they are selling is a certification from their organization, which is no better than the quality of the class they provide.
- This is where the benefit comes in for you to turn to a recognized expert to provide training instead of a salesman with enough information to be dangerous.
- Training should comply with NFPA 70E 2012 article 110.2.

Question: Does the qualified person need a certificate?

Answer:

- Employer documentation of training is required (NFPA 70E Article 110.2D)
- A personal card or certificate is not required – although it is a valuable item to have for those who travel among various sites and companies, this allows validation upon request.

Question: How long does training have to be? (Why an 8hours course?)

Answer:

- Qualified person training is not based on time. It is based on covering the necessary information that enables a person to act appropriately based on their exposure to electrical hazards.
(NFPA 70E 2012 Art. 110.2)

Such employees shall be trained in:

- Specific hazards associated with electrical energy
- Safety related work practice
- Procedural requirements as needed to protect against electrical hazards associated with their jobs or tasks.
- The focus should be on what is the exposure risk to the employee.

(To simplify please refer the article “Where do they fit in” written by Steve Abbott for EC&M magazine).

- Art 110.2D goes in more detail regarding all the items that one must be trained in.
- **Our standard 8 hour class will cover:**
 - Electrical Hazard Awareness
 - OSHA - NFPA 70E overview
 - Training requirements
 - Electrical Safety Program requirements
 - Design Considerations
 - 1-line diagrams (LOTO review)
 - Preventative maintenance –review
 - Arc flash Hazard analysis information (labels, drawings, reports)
 - PPE and other protective equipment
- There will still be additional training required for an individual to be considered “qualified” most these are customer specific:
 - Formal LOTO training
 - Company specific electrical safety policy/procedures
 - Company specific Lock out Tag-out policy/procedures
 - Voltage testing basic training
 - Tester training on specific tester they are required to use
 - CPR /first aid if their duties warrant responding to emergencies
 - 2012 NFPA 70E – AED training will be added



Electrical Safety Professionals and Engineers

Question: What training do unqualified persons need to have?

Answer:

- Unqualified persons shall be trained in and be familiar with any electrical safety-related practices necessary for their safety.

Examples are:

- What are electrical hazards
- How can exposure to electrical hazards occur
- How do you avoid electrical hazards
- How does the company electrical safety policy affect me?