



Schneider Electric – North American Operating Division  
1415 South Roselle Road • Palatine, IL 60067-7399 • Tel. (847) 397-2600 • Fax (847) 925-7271

Contact:

Jen Dirks  
Bader Rutter & Associates  
Phone: (262) 938-5565  
Fax: (262) 938-5552  
[jdirks@bader-rutter.com](mailto:jdirks@bader-rutter.com)

Tim Trush  
Schneider Electric, North American Operating Division  
Phone: (847) 397-2600  
[timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com](mailto:timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com)

[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

**SQUARE D<sup>®</sup> SERVICES REPORT OFFERS IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
TO ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY WORKERS ON ARC FLASH SAFETY  
*Advice and Tips Provided In Recognition of National Safety Month***

**PALATINE, III.** – June 1, 2006 – Five to 10 arc flash explosions occur in electrical equipment every day in the United States, according to a report from CapSchell, Inc., a Chicago-based research and consulting firm that specializes in preventing workplace injuries and deaths. In recognition of National Safety Month, Square D<sup>®</sup>, best known in the United States as the flagship brand for Schneider Electric's North American Operating Division, is offering a free report that provides advice and tips to plant facility managers and others in the industry on arc flash safety.

"Safety is the number one priority at Schneider Electric," says Joseph Weigel, product manager, Square D Services Marketing, with Schneider Electric's North American Operating Division. "We have spent countless hours designing and evaluating our high amperage circuit breakers and other products to limit the arc flash incident energy and provide the highest protection to workers inside the arc flash boundaries. Additionally, our Square D Services organization provides safety training, preventative maintenance services and other options that can help companies reduce the threat from electrical incidents within their facilities."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) describes an arc flash as "a dangerous condition associated with the release of energy caused by an electric arc." It is caused by a reduction of the insulation or isolation distance between energized components. This could be caused by a tool being inserted or dropped into a breaker or service area, or other elements that may be accidentally left behind that could compromise the distance between energized components. Often, incidents occur when a worker mistakenly fails to ensure that the equipment has been properly de-energized.

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**Schneider Electric**  
**North American Operating Division**  
1415 South Roselle Road  
Palatine, IL 60067-7399  
Tel. (1) 847-397-2600  
Fax (1) 847-925-7271  
[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

## SQUARE D OFFERS ARC FLASH SAFETY TIPS

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Arc flash incidents typically occur in applications above 120V and can occur when electrical equipment is being serviced or inspected. An arc flash can cause serious equipment damage and render the equipment no longer usable, causing a disruption of a facility's operation for hours or days, depending on the equipment, its age and how quickly service can be restored. The explosion also can completely destroy the equipment, leaving it unsuitable for service.

As part of the free report, Square D offers these critical reminders to electrical industry workers and others:

- Establish a facility electrical safety program with clearly defined responsibilities.
- Appoint an electrical safety program manager.
- Conduct an electrical system engineering analysis to determine what degree of arc flash hazard is present.
- Conduct safety training for all workers.
- Ensure you have an adequate supply of properly rated protective clothing and equipment on hand.
- Ensure that you have the proper tools on hand for safe electrical work.
- Apply warning labels to all equipment.
- Properly maintain all electrical distribution system components.
- Update and maintain all electrical distribution documentation.

For more information on arc flash safety tips or to download this free report, visit the Square D Web site at [www.squared.com](http://www.squared.com) or the Square D Services Web site at [www.squared-services.com](http://www.squared-services.com).

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

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