



Press Release

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SQUARE D® WARNS HOMEOWNERS, BUSINESSES ABOUT WATER-DAMAGED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Palatine, Ill. (USA), July 3, 2008 – As Americans begin to assess the devastation caused by recent flooding in the Midwest, threats for severe thunderstorms and flash flooding continue across the country. Square D®, Schneider Electric's flagship brand in the United States, encourages home and business owners to use caution when turning on water-damaged electrical equipment. Anyone with concerns about the operation and safety of electrical equipment and systems damaged by the flooding can receive safety advice and technical direction from the Square D/Schneider Electric Customer Information Center (CIC) by calling a toll-free hotline, 1-888-778-2733, and identifying the request as "disaster relief." Experts are on-call around the clock to recommend a course of action to safely restore electrical systems.

"Electrical systems, such as breaker boxes, wiring and outlets, that have been under water are damaged," said Jim Pauley, vice president of industry and government relations for Schneider Electric/Square D. "It is not safe to turn the power back on and think that the electrical system will work as it did before the flooding. To ensure safety, people need to have their electrical system evaluated by an electrical contractor. We urge homeowners and business owners to wait to turn the power back on until the building has been properly inspected."

Electrical equipment that has been submerged in water *must* be serviced or replaced. Attempting to dry out equipment in many cases leaves portions of the current-carrying parts with damp or wet surfaces, which

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may be in contact with insulators and other materials that prevent them from being properly dried out and cleaned of debris. Residual debris or wet surfaces could result in a loss of dielectric spacing within the equipment and could be hazardous when re-energized. Additionally, hazardous conditions can develop after re-energization if untrained personnel try to disassemble and reassemble equipment.

For certain types of large equipment, such as switchboards, switchgear and medium-voltage circuit breakers, reconditioning may be possible, but the ability to do so will vary and may include repair or replacement of internal components or of the complete circuit breaker. *(See Figure 1 below for lists of equipment that must be replaced and could be reconditioned.)* Following are recommendations for managing electrical equipment in related post-flooding situations.

Non-submerged Equipment

Equipment located in flooded areas that was not submerged should be inspected by a qualified professional to determine whether moisture has entered the enclosure. If there are any signs of moisture or damage, the equipment should be replaced or repaired. Any disassembly should be performed only by trained factory service personnel who are familiar with equipment design and function.

Enclosures Containing Field-replaceable Interior Components

It is possible that enclosures containing field-replaceable interior components can be reused if they have not been subjected to physical damage and have been properly cleaned of all debris and foreign materials. This is generally limited to a load center or panelboard in which the entire interior assembly can be removed or replaced as a unit. Conductors, junction boxes and termination points also warrant consideration and care.

Use of Cleaning Agents

Some cleaning agents, especially petroleum-based cleaners, can be hazardous when applied to current-carrying portions of electrical equipment. Some cleaning and lubricating compounds can cause deterioration of non-metallic insulating or structural portions of equipment. Abrasives or sandpaper should never be used to clean current-carrying parts of equipment.

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Must Be <i>Replaced in Entirety</i>	May Be Reconditioned* <small>*The ability to recondition will vary; may include repair/replacement of internal components</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Molded case circuit breakers• Multimetering equipment• Load centers or panelboards• Dry-type transformers• Low-voltage bus• All solid-state components• Programmable logic controllers• Solid-state motor starters• Adjustable speed drives• Fuses• Lighting• Starters, push buttons and limit switches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Switchboards• Switchgear• Iron-frame low voltage circuit breakers• Medium voltage circuit breakers• Low voltage bolted-pressure switches• Medium voltage switches• Motor control centers• Panelboards• Liquid-filled power transformers• Cast-resin transformers• Medium voltage bus• Some electro-mechanical relays and contactors

Figure 1

For more information on Schneider Electric or Square D, visit www.us.schneider-electric.com.

About Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric total sales in North America in 2007 were \$6.6 billion (U.S.). These include the sales of the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric (NAOD), as well as North American sales of other Schneider Electric companies such as APC, TAC, etc. Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division markets many of the brands of Schneider Electric to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D® brand. Schneider Electric, the global specialist in energy management, offers integrated solutions making energy safer, more reliable, efficient and productive in the energy & infrastructure, industry, data centers & networks, buildings and residential markets. With sales of \$23.7 billion in 2007, the company's 120,000 employees in 102 countries help individuals & organizations make the most of their energy. Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

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