



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Engineering and Support Center,  
Huntsville

# Safety Office

## Mishap Lessons Learned



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**Subject:** Electrical Near Miss Incident

**Event:** An Employee was conducting a Contractor's Field Test (CFT) on an energized panel. The panel must be energized in order to perform the test because the load must not be interrupted to ensure the proper verification of amperage, kilowatts and voltage. After the CFT was complete and all readings were obtained, the employee was reinstalling the lower cover panel when a screw made contact with a wire inside the panel (behind the lower panel cover). The contact caused a short which resulted in a tripped breaker. The employee immediately stopped work and contacted the facility manager to report the tripped breaker and the discovery of the exposed wire. The site's electrician replaced the insulation which caused the wire to be exposed and reset the breaker.

**Root Cause(s):**

- Exposed wire was not observed by employee.
- The exposed wire was not cleared of the path of the screw placement or the wire shifted positions while the employee was aligning the lower panel cover with the correct hole placements.
- Employees did not review/follow all safety procedures as established for this procedure.
- Panel should have been de-energized when removing and replacing the lower panel cover.

**Recommendations:**

- Never rush to complete a task.
- When conducting test which require energized panels, always take time to perform a visual inspection in order to confirm that no wires appear to be exposed or have damaged insulation.
- Prior to applying panel covers, ensure that the path of screw is clear of any inside components, including wires.
- Always de-energize panel when removing/replacing panel covers.

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