THE FIRE PROTECTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Research in support of the NFPA mission

"Looking Ahead" Electrical Issues

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“Looking Ahead” - Electrical Issues

- **Continues to be a positive trend to focus on Electrical Safety**
- **NFPA 70 - *National Electrical Code*, and 70E - *Electrical Safety in the Workplace*, are both internationally recognized as “Bibles” for their subjects covered**
- **NEC has new info to cover Critical Operations Power Systems (9/11), alternate energy sources (PV, Wind) and Electric Vehicles**
- **70E has made great progress in establishing an awareness of Arc Flash hazards**

…but what’s next?

“Looking Ahead” - Electrical Issues

- The internet has become a part of our everyday lives
  - “Data” is available on everything … and available instantly
- Electronics have been integrated into most products giving us capabilities never before imagined
- Are we making effective use of these technologies to further advance electrical safety through our codes & standards
  - Fires of electrical origin still occur, damaging property, injuring and killing people
  - Electrocutions still occur
  - Arc flash incidents still occur
  - Electronic equipment is being destroyed by electrical surges

“Looking Ahead” - Electrical Issues

- Recent trend to view new/updated codes & standards as “anti-competitive”
- It’s become a “political battle”
- States have been moving to change the adoption of the NEC from 3 years, to 6 years or more
  - Claim increases costs of buildings
  - Claim increases training required to keep updated
- What is the true “costs” of NOT updating
  - What is the price of a life saved or injury prevented
  - Are we making the politicians aware of our positions
  - Are we on a “race to the bottom”

“Looking Ahead” - Electrical Issues

- Another trend has been the focus on the dwindling supply of natural resources
  - Terms like “Smart Grid” “Smart Houses” “Smart Meters” and even “Smart Cities” are becoming mainstream
- But … are we using our codes & standards to make sure that we’ll leave the world a better place for our children and grandchildren
  - Have efficiency standards been established for enough products/installations
  - Have efficiency standards kept pace with present technologies
  - Are there enough mandatory regulations to enforce efficiency standards

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