

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Meter Base Short Circuit



Background

During a routine meter installation a worker was removing the plastic meter cover. The cover was lodged onto the metal meter base cover plate and was difficult to remove. When the worker attempted to pry the plastic cover off, the metal meter base cover plate dislodged and came into contact with the energized meter lug. This caused a short circuit and arc flash within the meter base.

All appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) was in place and no injuries occurred as a result of this incident.

Practical Guidance

1. When removing or installing meters, wear all appropriate PPE (i.e., flame resistant clothing, hard hat, safety glasses, rubber gloves, dry leather gloves, safety boots).
2. Plastic meter covers should be fairly loose fitting and should come out easily. If a plastic meter cover is difficult to remove, disconnect the power source before removing the cover.
3. When installing a plastic meter cover, ensure it is installed correctly and that the locking tab is fully engaged.

