

PHYSICS DIVISION
ESH BULLETIN 2004-14
ELECTRICAL ACCIDENT SHUTS DOWN SLAC
October 13, 2004

See Physics Division Qualified Electrical Worker Training [Study Guide](#) pertaining to Personal Protective Equipment for Work on or Near Energized Electrical Equipment ≥ 50 Volts.

An electrical accident this morning at the Stanford Linear Accelerator, described as the first serious injury incident at the facility in four decades, sent a worker to the hospital today with third-degree burns on his arms, a lab official said.

The accident happened at about 11:15 a.m. in the lab's gallery, the two-mile-long shed in which subatomic particles have gradually revealed some of the secrets of matter to top physicists during high-energy experiments.

A technician employed by the lab was installing a circuit breaker in the world's longest building when a powerful electrical arc ignited the protective clothing he was wearing, said Neil Calder, a spokesman for SLAC. The worker was transported to the burn unit at Valley Medical Center in San Jose, he said. There was no immediate word on his condition.

Calder said the damage to the facility was minimal, but that the lab would likely remain closed for a couple of days while the accident is investigated. He said the lab's management wants to make sure no one else is similarly injured.

The incident was handled by the lab's own trained firefighters and by Palo Alto paramedics.

Posted in The Mercury News on October 11, 2004.