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**Milwaukee Company Penalized  
\$193,500 for Failing to Protect Workers  
from Electrical Hazards**

**MILWAUKEE, Wis.** -- The U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued citations and proposed penalties to Pieper Electric, Inc., of Milwaukee, Wis., for failing to protect workers from electrical hazards.

"To ensure that injury and illness rates continue to decline, we must make sure that employers protect employees from workplace hazards," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "The significant penalty of \$193,500 in this case demonstrates this Administration's commitment to protecting the health and safety of American workers."

The penalty and OSHA citations are based on an inspection initiated in September 2003 following an incident at a Racine, Wis., wastewater treatment facility where Pieper Electric was contracted to furnish and install various electrical equipment. On September 23, three Pieper employees were severely burned by an arc flash and explosion that occurred while they were testing an electrical switchgear unit. OSHA cited the firm for a serious violation of federal training requirements and willful violations of lack of personal protective gear and for failing to de-energize or effectively guard exposed live equipment parts.

Pieper Electric, Inc., employs approximately 430 workers nationwide and had 16 workers on the Racine project at the time of the accident. The company has been inspected 63 times at various job sites since 1972 and has been issued a total of 13 serious and 40 other violations.

The company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations to appeal before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

In fiscal year 2003, OSHA conducted almost 40,000 inspections, an increase of more than 2000 inspections over 2002 levels; more than half focused on high-hazard industries. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is dedicated to saving lives, preventing injuries and illnesses and protecting the health and safety of America's workers.

For more OSHA Citations visit:

**[www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov)**



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**OSHA Citation 306798679/01001**

Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970: The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to electrical arc flash: a) At the Weston WPS Power Plant #4, an arc flash hazard analysis was not conducted. Employees, were working within the flash boundary (that was not determined prior to exposure) while testing on an energized 6.9KV primary/480V secondary panel board without the appropriate personal protective clothing or equipment and were exposed to the hazard of electrical burns due to arc flash. Among feasible means of abatement would be to comply with the 2004 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, Article 130, Section 130.3 Flash Hazard analysis: to determine the flash protection boundary, Article 110, Section 110.7(G) Job Briefing: covers hazards associated with the job, work procedures involved. Abatement Certification or Abatement Documentation required.tion

**Inspection:** 306798679  
**Reporting ID:** 0521100  
**Open Date:** 02/11/2005  
**SIC:** 1623  
**Establishment Name:** Van Ert Electric Company Inc.  
**Citation:** 01001  
**Issuance Date:** 05/09/2005  
**Hazard Category:** Electric

For more OSHA Citations visit:

**www.OSHA.gov**



Citation and Notification of Penalty

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Citation 1 Item 4b Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.335(a)(1)(v): Employees did not wear protective equipment for the eyes or face wherever there was danger of injury to the eyes or face from electric arcs or flashes or from flying objects resulting from electrical explosion:

Maintenance employees working in front of energized 440/480-volt electrical panels for diagnostic purposes were not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment for the face/eyes in the event an electric arc blast were to occur.(national consensus standard, NFPA 70E provides specific recommendations for appropriate PPE.)

Abatement certification and abatement documentation is required for this violation. The documentation should include written verification of abatement, applicable measurements or monitoring results, and photographs or videos which you believe will be helpful. The abatement certification sheet is enclosed with the citations(s).

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:

06/16/2004

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See pages 1 through 3 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

Company Name:  
Inspection Site:

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**Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Serious****

29 CFR 1910.132(d)(1): The employer did not assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment:

(a) Location - Pentucket Medical Associates Records Room:

On or about 03/08/04, the employer had not performed a hazard assessment of the work to be performed in order to assign the appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn while testing the live electrical equipment.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	09/07/2004
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 5000.00

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See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

EXHIBIT A



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

Company Name:  
Inspection Site:

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**Citation 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Serious****

29 CFR 1910.335(a)(1)(i): Employees working in areas where there were potential electrical hazards were not provided with, and/or did not use, electrical protective equipment that was appropriate for the specific parts of the body to be protected and for the work to be performed:

- (a) Location - Pentucket Medical Associates Records Room:  
On or about 3/8/04, an employee troubleshooting a live circuit of the dumbwaiter 208/110 charge transformer with a 480v power supply was not provided with voltage rated gloves, fire rated clothing, head protection, or face protection.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	09/07/2004
Proposed Penalty:	\$ 5000.00

Area Director

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See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.