

The Master Electrician Who Was Also The Safety Guy

Twelve hours the day before. On site by 5 a.m. Reaching into an energized junction box.

10 MIN

NFPA 70E Art. 120 · Art. 130.2 — Energized Work Justification

Massachusetts FACE 12MA007

WHAT HAPPENED

2012 · Massachusetts · Printing manufacturer · 53-year-old master electrician

A printing company was mid-relocation. A licensed master electrician — who was also the company's main safety representative and trainer — was overseeing the disassembly, move, and reassembly of about 15 machines, working extended hours. He had worked roughly 12 hours the previous day and was on site by 5 to 6 a.m. An envelope machine that had been split in two for the move was running, but its 480-volt three-phase blower motor was not working right. He replaced fuses in the main panel, traced an apparent short, then reached into a floor-level junction box near the machine's split point that was both physically and visually inaccessible. He contacted an energized component and was killed. A co-worker pulled him free by his sleeve.

WHY IT HAPPENED
No lockout was applied. The circuit was never de-energized, locked, and verified dead before he put his hand in the box. Investigators could not even determine whether he was testing or still troubleshooting live.

WHAT THE STANDARD REQUIRES

- Troubleshooting and diagnostics on exposed energized parts IS energized work.
- Energized work requires a written justification and a permit — schedule pressure is not a justification.
- Never reach into a space you cannot see into. If you cannot see it, you cannot assess it.
- Fatigue is a hazard. Schedule work so people get rest between shifts.

TALK ABOUT IT — DO NOT SKIP THIS PART

1. The most qualified person in the building died doing this. What does that tell us about relying on experience?
2. When is the last time anyone here filled out an energized work permit? Where are they kept?
3. Who is working their second long day in a row right now?

WHAT WE WILL DO DIFFERENTLY HERE

ATTENDANCE

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE