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Licensed Electrical Contractor narrowly escapes serious injury

While installing metering conductors in a 4160 V switchgear, a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) came into contact with the terminal of an energized lightning arrester.

This contact could have been FATAL!

A serious hazard exists when LECs assume lightning arresters are de-energized when the main switch is turned off or even when a breaker is racked out. Lightning arresters are typically installed on the line side of a main switch to protect the incoming supply conductors from surges. Extreme care shall be exercised to ensure lightning arresters are de-energized when working in compartments.

The following procedure is recommended:

1. Check the single line drawing, ensure that tag and lock-out procedure is understood by personnel doing the work (See **Figure F1**).
2. Test to confirm that the surge arrester is de-energized before working within an electrical enclosure.

