

## What Use Are Breaker Panel Labels?

Labels on premises breaker panels are showing up all over SLAC. Common questions are “Why are there signs on the panel?” and “What good are they?” The labels on breaker panels, disconnect switches, industrial control panels and motor control centers, warn a qualified person of potential shock and arc flash hazards, and comply with code requirements. A qualified person is knowledgeable of equipment powered by an electric panel or switch, has received safety training on shock and arc flash hazards and has the approval of their supervisor and possibly area managers for breaker or disconnect switch operation.

There are several kinds of labels, WARNING, NOTICE or DANGER. Application of the labels is based on the hazards at or in the panel. An electric arc flash can cause very serious injuries. To the reduce potential for injury it is imperative that the Flash Protection Boundary (FPB) be observed and the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including safety glasses, be worn. (See labels read more)

Make link to pictures of labels



WARNING labels have been placed on panel-boards and circuit breakers not yet analyzed for hazards. Contact the building or area manager if there is no label on a breaker panel or disconnect switch.



The NOTICE label is the most common label at SLAC. Most breaker panels are 208/120VAC, fed from transformers rated less than 125kVA and do not have the potential to create an arc flash. To operate breakers ENCLOSED in this panel, the operator must be qualified and wear safety glasses.



The primary hazard when operating ENCLOSED circuit breakers is arc flash (Warning Label). The FPB and the full PPE complement indicated on the label must be observed and worn every time a breaker in the panel is operated.



The hazards associated with operating circuit breakers with the covers or doors open are arc flash and shock (DANGER label). The DANGER label is a second label that appears on the front of every breaker panel. The purpose of the DANGER label is to notify a worker what PPE is required and what distance must be observed when working on an OPEN panel.

Do not operate circuit breakers unless it is in your job description. No SLAC unlabeled circuit breaker may be operated until a hazard analysis has been performed. If there is a need to operate an unlabeled circuit, the ESC provides guidance in Electrical Safety Guide (ESG)-2010 Premises Power Circuit Breakers and Disconnect Switches: Operating and PPE Requirements.