An arc flash is a sudden, unexpected discharge of electricity that travels through the air between conductors, or from a conductor to ground. This short circuit releases enormous amounts of energy as light and heat. The results can be devastating.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that more than 2000 people are treated for severe arc flash injuries every year. An average work day in the US will include five to ten arc explosions in electrical equipment. The risk of severe injury from this phenomenon is abundant. Electrical burns, as well as fractured bones, collapsed lungs, and damaged hearing can result from the waves of pressure emanating from an arc flash, and temperatures in excess of 5000 degrees can cause devastating burns and even death. There is no margin for error when it comes to an arc flash. Almost all arc flash accidents occur because workers either ignored safe work practices or they were simply untrained to perform with safety as the focus of the work.

In response to this serious danger, NEIEP presents CE026 - Arc Flash Safety in the Workplace: Maximizing Personal and Co-worker Safety Using NFPA 70E Guidelines. This online course is available to IUEC members through the Continuing Education page at neiep.org.

This four-unit, self-paced course gives elevator constructors the knowledge and awareness they need to avoid the calamities that can and do result every day from a lack of training. Unit one of the course defines the arc flash and accompanying blast, the types of associated electrical hazards, and the injuries that often occur as a result. The first unit also provides an overview of arc flash prevention. Unit two overviews the U.S. electrical safety codes and standards that pertain and defines an “electrically safe work environment.” The unit continues with an exploration of safety planning – including the importance of the facility electrical safety plan, hazard analysis, training and retraining, equipment labeling, job briefings and inspections, record-keeping and audits – and then finishes with a discussion of work strategies for assuring task competence and safe working conditions.

Unit three details the process of de-energizing equipment as well as the conditions under which it may be necessary to “work hot” and the latest requirements under 70E for obtaining an “energized electrical work permit” in order to ensure that all hazards are considered and all necessary precautions are taken before the work is performed on energized parts. Unit four explains how to select the best PPE for the hazard and discusses the best ways to maintain it so that it will continue to protect you the way it’s designed to. It outlines NFPA requirements for clothing and other protective equipment, as well as lock out/tag out procedures, info on insulated tools and equipment, meters and voltage detectors, grounding equipment, GFCI, cords and cables, care and maintenance, and more.

The course is presented in an easy-to-navigate, linear structure, with a user-friendly course layout, integrated videos and photographs, professional voiceover, unit quizzes for immediate assessment and a final exam. Make the choice in this New Year to focus on safety. NEIEP’s new arc flash training is a great place to start.
Richard Loeh, Region 1, New York City and nearby New Jersey

Greetings from the Local (and City) that never sleeps. We wrapped up a pretty substantial recruitment in September. Almost 3000 applicants applied at our hall in Long Island City, culminating in a list of almost 1100 IUEC hopefuls. The whole process was a pretty eye-opening experience. The amount of qualified and educated people who participated in the recruitment was impressive to say the least. We’re very excited to have such a talent-rich list to draw upon over the next couple of years. I have already seen some recruits get hired and I am impressed with what I see. I would like to thank my NEIEP brothers as well as my brothers here at Local #1 for all their help during the recruitment process.

Next on the hit parade was the Mechanic’s Exam, which was administered on November 13th. 130 potential Journeymen sat for the exam with high hopes. 51 passed out of the 130 who sat for the exam. Congratulations to those who worked hard and passed. In talking to the apprentices who passed after failing the exam in the past, I think I figured out the formula to passing our exam. STUDY. That’s it. The review process for the exam was amped up both by NEIEP and Local 1. In the end, though, the responsibility falls at the lap of the apprentice. We have already begun preparing for next year’s exam and expect our pass/fail rate to improve.

The fall semester is winding down, which means the holidays are upon us. During this time of giving thanks, I would like to thank our service men and women who make it possible for us to enjoy the liberties we have grown accustomed to. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

E. Ray Roche, Region 2, Northeast

Conducted recruitments in Local 6 Pittsburgh, Local 59 Harrisburg, and presently have a recruitment in Local 84 Reading Scranton. Tested and Interviewed 7 Helmets to Hardhats Candidates in Region 2 since September. Construction work has picked up slowly, with most new jobs scheduled for Spring 2014.

Attended 3 Job Fair Seminars around the Region. Veteran Representatives conducted audits of 2 JAC Programs to insure vets are getting their correct benefits. Taught NEIEP class - Asbestos, which showed the danger of this substance years after exposure. Also taught Testing Hydraulic and Traction Elevators to a group of service mechanics, to make sure all safety procedures were being followed. Continuing Education Classes keep the workforce aware of changes and new procedures to work safely. Conducted MXE in Local 6, Local 59 and assisted in Local 5.

Happy Holidays to the entire NEIEP Staff. To the Region 2 JAC Members, thank you for your help and cooperation this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Never forget to count your blessings every day.

Paul Johnson, Region 3, Southeast

Greetings from the new Region #3. The Semester will be coming to a close by the time you read this, and we will have a few new Mechanics in our ranks. Congratulations go out to those who put in the effort and passed.

As the greeting indicates, I have gained some new Locals and lost a few. I would like to thank the JACs in Locals #20 Louisville, #30 Memphis, and #32 Atlanta for your warm welcome at the most recent JAC meetings I attended. I look forward to working with all of you to those that read our articles keep this in mind and use it on your students: (Not having a goal is a greater fear than not reaching one.) Apprentices and All Mechanics BE THE BEST EDUCATED IN THE ELEVATOR INDUSTRY; TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL NEIEP HAS TO OFFER. Happy Holidays!

Raymond McCann, Region 4, Midwest

Season’s Greetings from Region 4! Congratulations to all those who have successfully challenged the recent Mechanics Exam. I also extend a sincere thanks to their Instructor, Local 2’s JAC (Chicago, IL) has completed interviewing 909 applicants out of the 1680 that applied. Recently, Local 15 (Milwaukee, WI) created a new applicant list of 64, and Local 132 (Madison, WI) completed a new applicant list of 35. Local 55 (Peoria, IL) has just begun the recruitment process which is expected to be completed by February 2014. My sincere appreciation to all who have assisted! I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David G. Aranda, Region 5, Southwest

I want to acknowledge the work of the Part-Time administrators, instructors and committee members who have worked so hard during the 2013 school year, facilitating the Apprenticeship Program and the Mechanics Continuing Education.

Welding trailer #4 is currently in Arlington, Texas, at the IUEC Local 21 union hall/NEIEP training facility. All Local 21 members can visit the NEIEP website www.neiep.org, log into the Student Gateway, and see that you have special access to the welding class. Once you have completed the online welding prequalification course you will be registered to take the 40 hour “hands-on” certification class. You will then be contacted regarding the class schedule by NEIEP Part-Time administrator Renee Sutton.

Recruitments: Local 21 - Dallas/Ft. Worth is currently in the process of holding interviews. Local 31 - Houston recently completed their interview process and has a new list established. Local 81 - San Antonio updated its list in October. Local 131 Albuquerque/El Paso also established a new list in October and is scheduling a new recruitment for January. Local 140- Phoenix built its recruitment list in September. Reminder - there are no close dates for Helmets to Hardhats applicants. Congratulations to all the apprentices who passed the NEIEP Mechanics Exam.

Earl Baker, Region 6, Northwest

The mechanics examinations were completed in my area as follows: Salt Lake City, UT, on September 13, 2013; Des Moines, IA, on October 25, 2013; Denver, CO, on November 15, 2013; and Omaha, NE, on November 19, 2013. Congratulations to all the apprentices successful on their mechanics exam.

The Nebraska/Southwest Iowa Apprenticeship Council Outstanding Apprenticeship Banquet was held at Horsemens’ Park Clubhouse on October 4, 2013. The Outstanding Elevator Constructors were Corey Delavan, Dennis Ebel, Shawn Howard, Clint Kerans, Dan McCandless and Mike Wasser. Congratulations to each of these mechanics for receiving this award.

We completed the Local 38 Salt Lake City, UT, recruitment on October 22, 2013. We will be starting a recruitment for Boise, ID, in December 2013 with testing and interviews to be completed in February 2014. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Steve Tsumamoto, Region 7, Hawaii and Pacific Islands

Aloha from Hawaii! We’ve received the results of our Mechanics Exam held on November 8, 2013, and I am happy to announce that NEIEP has graduated ten new mechanics. The IUEC 126 Joint Apprenticeship Committee and our instructors congratulate all who have worked so hard to achieve this landmark in their careers as elevator constructors.

Introducing myself, I’ve been a NEIEP instructor for many years now, the Local Administrator for the past few years, an OSHA trainer, as well as being QEI certified. Looking forward to serving as the Area Coordinator for Hawaii.

All apprentices who were eligible to sit for the mechanics exam have given very good reviews of the Mechanics Review Eligibility Course, CE025, taught by instructor and Local Administrator Lawrence Morinaga. Larry has reported strong participation by all who attended. There were, however, numerous comments from the apprentices for additional class time to review the results of the mock exam, though all participants understand the constraints of condensing 8 semesters of material into a 72 hour course.

The RVMX class taught by retired IUEC member Ronald Nakamine enjoyed almost 100% participation nightly, again with strong participation by all.

In addition to proctoring the Mechanics Exam, Area Coordinator Tim Daly administered CE020 Prep Signal Person & Rigger Level I Qualification Prep exams to 12 of our apprentices. We are fast approaching the end of our semester with our two RC100 courses and one RC500 course, with two RC200 courses and a RC700 course planned for spring 2014. With the recent arrival of the Maxton & EECO valve lab, we have started to advertise and will be offering Continuing Ed valve classes shortly. Finally, as usual, work has slowed down here in Hawaii during the “winter” months, with several of our probationary apprentices temporarily laid off. Best wishes for the Christmas season to all.

Roy Francisconi, Region 8, Northern California and Northern Nevada

Work in Region 8 is going well at this time. Presently there are 204 students enrolled in the Fall Semester and 9 additional apprentices enrolled in the new NH002 Probationary course. Last year at this time there were less than 100 students enrolled in the Fall Semester. Additional CE classes will begin in the Spring.

Included in the total above are 18 students enrolled in our welding school. The welding class is a sixteen week course that runs concurrently with the Fall and Spring semesters This will be our 7th graduating class.

Congratulations to 16 new Mechanics who passed their Mechanics Examination in September. Presently we are finishing a recruitment drive in northern Nevada. The interviews will be completed in December and the new list will be available on January 1, 2014. Everyone have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Ed Lackey, Region 9, Southern California

After four long years, the work picture in Local 18 has started to improve. Since the start of school in August, the Companies have begun to hire. I now have 17 new hires on the 6 month probationary course and maybe more to come. I am planning to hold an Open House in...
January to show the Companies in the Local area what NEIEP has to offer in a more positive learning experience and how we can increase their productivity through education.

Ronald M. McKay, Region 10, Great Lakes
Happy Holidays from the Great Lakes Region 10! As this fall semester winds down, students are being reminded to double check that their Unit Exams and attendance are up to date. This responsibility is critically important in ensuring the students’ ability to take the Semester-end exam.

Individuals who failed the recent Mechanic Exam, and those who failed to sit for the Mechanic Exam, will soon receive letters to appear before the Local Education Committee during the January JATC meeting. This is a procedural process that all committees must follow to discuss future student activities or actions.

Locals in Region 10 are asking that anyone interested in Continuing Education courses contact the Hall. I would suggest first visiting the NEIEP website to view a list of these classroom courses. Once logged in, click on the “Course Information” link to view our course catalog. You will find courses offered in a classroom environment on page 3. Another option is to click on the “Student Gateway” link and select from one of the last three links; Educational Software, Online Training and Licensing or ElectroLab Simulator. Within these areas you will find several presentations, certificate courses and educational lab experiences that will enhance your educator knowledge. Don’t forget about our Scaffolding, Signaling and Rigging, OSHA, and Welding programs that can put a certification or qualification card in your pocket.

Work in Region 10 is slowly improving. Local 36, Detroit, MI, will begin the advertising period of a new apprenticeship recruitment sometime in January. The Education Committee has decided to do a walk-in application process to begin sometime in February. Best Holiday wishes to students, instructors and Committee members in Region 10!

Bob Duffy, Region 11, SEC
We just completed a recruitment in local 135 and they now have an up-to-date list with 34 candidates ready to go to work in North and South Carolina. This ranked list includes 2 Helmets to Hardhats. Locals 51 and 52 are getting together to update the standards in the state of VA and are currently holding meetings with their appropriate ATRs. Local 52 is gearing up to have a recruitment around February 2014 and wants to be in compliance with the standards for VA. Happy Holidays to all.

Curt DeVillers, Region 12, New England
Hello from the Northeast! Mechanic exams are over and we are closing in on the end of the fall semester. Congratulations to all the new mechanics out there and best of luck throughout your careers. Never overlook the importance of NEIEP Continuing Education. These courses will keep you fresh and in the game. We have just completed recruitments in Local 41 and Local 4. Recruitments in Locals 138, 14, 27, and 35 will be finished up in the next two months. Locals 39 and 62 will be starting soon. Thank you to all the JAC members who helped out during these recruitments. We have seen a few new hires put on in Region 12 recently. JAC members are reminded of the importance of monitoring apprentice progress. Log onto the NEIEP website to see how they are doing. Wishing you all the best this holiday season and much success and happiness in the New Year.

Mike Littrell, Region 13, South Central
Happy Holidays from Region 13. I want to remind everyone to attend the JAC meetings in January. Have a safe and enjoyable season and we’ll see you in the New Year.

Frank Lopez, Region 14, Miami
I’m excited to welcome Local 49 Jacksonville, Local 74 Tampa, and Local 139 Orlando to Region 14. With the new additions and Local 71 Miami, it will be my pleasure to work with these great locals. These locals have great leadership, office staff, JAC members, instructors, apprentices and membership.

I want to congratulate all apprentices who successfully challenged and passed this year’s NEIEP Mechanic Examination. Their hard work and dedication was shown by the amount of apprentices who passed this year. Please, don’t forget to apply for your state licensing.

This year the Florida Department of Licensing has requested changes on our online licensing courses. They have decided to use these courses to satisfy the requirements of the Florida Administrative Code.

2013 Florida State Code Review Course
2013 Florida State Testing Hydraulic Elevators
2013 Florida State Fall Protection Course

The work situation in Local 71 is improving and our unemployed Brothers are returning back to work. I’m looking forward to adding more classes to the spring semester. Please take advantage of all NEIEP continuing education classes they have to offer. The CE020 Signal Person & Rigger Level 1 Qualification Prep Course is a course to take advantage of. It’s our job to rig our equipment, to hoist our equipment and to work safe. Safety is number ONE.

In Local 74, Randy Ward will be starting an Advanced Hydraulic Valve Operation class (With Simulator) in December. If you’re interested in attending this class in the future, please call your local administrator. Special Thanks to the NEIEP staff for their hard work and dedication to the program. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Sonny Yeatman Jr., Region 15, Washington, D.C.
Season’s Greetings from the Nation’s Capital. At the present time in work Local #10 and Local #48 is on the rise. At the present time in Local #10 we are running 5 year 1 classes, 1 year 2, 1 year 3, and 1 year 4. We just finished 4 Continuing Education classes for the first semester. In Local #48 there is 1 year 1 class and we are in the process of building a Continuing Education class that will fulfill the requirements for carrying a mechanic license in West Virginia and Kentucky. In Local #10 the new welding classroom is up and running with 4 members of the Local now certified in 3G and 4G. Local #10 accepted applications on September 19, taking 350 applications from 7:00 am until 12:00. Local #48 will also accept applications in March with the ELAT test being given in April. Local #10 gave its Mechanic’s Exam in September and produced 15 new Mechanics. Congratulations to those individuals. I want to thank the support staff of NEIEP for their help throughout the year. It is much appreciated.

Jeffrey L. Burns, Region 18, Midwest
Happy Holidays! I just returned from the Indianapolis Mechanics Test, wrapping up the Region 18 test schedule, with Lester White providing a helpful hand. Congratulations to those who passed! Those tower cranes dotting the skylines are now turning into jobs and school is picking up with new probationary apprentices, along with returning apprentices making NEIEP life hopping!

In the Recruitment arena, Minnesota, Cleveland, and Akron have had recruitments in the last 18 months with Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo having early 2014 recruitments. As we go into Finals Month, I want to thank again all the Instructors for their time and talents, the Students for progressing each year (and the time spent increasing their talents), but we really need to send a big Shout Out to all the NEIEP Staff for taking such good care of all of us! I also want to thank my brothers and sisters in the IUEC, EIWPF and NEIEP for all the help and support this year (and all of the 36 years that came before). Please have a great semester break and be ready for a Big Spring Semester. Study hard, Work safe and prosper.

Art Rodgers, Region 19, Philadelphia, Baltimore, & Greensboro/Winston-Salem, NC
The Mechanic exam season has ended in Region 19. Local 7 has five new mechanics, Local 80 has three new mechanics and Local 5 has twelve new mechanics. Congratulations to all. You should all be proud of what you have accomplished in completing your apprenticeship. Remember that your education as an Elevator Constructor mechanic has not ended. Rather, you should now start taking advantage of all of the Continuing Education classes offered by NEIEP.

In early October, the welding trailer finally landed in Baltimore. Local 7 should be proud that 100 of its members have signed up to take advantage of this valuable tool. This certification in your wallet will go a long way to making sure that our work stays ours.

Locals 80 and 5 have completed recruitments and now have new lists of available candidates to go to work. Hopefully, work will pick up so these Locals get some new blood into the trade. Local 7 has completed the application and aptitude testing parts of its recruitment with interviews coming in early 2014. Thank you to all of the instructors and NEIEP staff for their continued support. I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving with your families and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. WORK SAFE

Larry Engel, Region 20, Las Vegas, NV and San Diego, CA
Greetings from Region 20. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with family and friends. I would like to thank the Joint Apprenticeship Committees in Region 20, and the support staff at NEIEP for all your help throughout this past year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Scott McGinty, Region 21, Pacific Northwest
Local 19 Seattle has experienced an increase in work within the past six months, nothing like the contraction boom that was witnessed years prior, but anytime members return to work should be viewed as a positive. Local 19 Western Washington had an open recruitment for prospective candidates for apprenticeship, and ended up with 203 names on the list. In Montana the recruitment process is open for applications with a closing date of 12/15/13. Testing and interviews will take place in January 2014.

The Welding Lab was very successful in Fife, WA, and dozens of Local 19 members are now qualified to weld. At this time the welding lab is located in Local 23 Portland, OR, and so far has been well received with active participation. Thanks to all of the dedicated Instructors. Your participation and mentoring are an important part of our Industry. Happy Holidays to all, and please put safety as your first priority every day.
NEIEP is pleased to announce a new partnership with Thomas Edison State College that will provide members of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) who have completed the four-year NEIEP apprenticeship program an expedited pathway toward a college degree.

This partnership is not designed to replace the higher education programs already in place with Ivy Tech Community College and Goddard College, but will provide additional opportunities for members to pursue their education beyond the NEIEP program. To facilitate this partnership, the Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning at Thomas Edison State College recently completed a program review for NEIEP. NEIEP demonstrated to the team of subject-area specialists who conducted the academic program review that its training programs are comparable to college-level coursework in terms of standards, learning outcomes, assessment, and overall consistency and quality.

As a result of this review, Thomas Edison State College will award college credit to students who successfully complete the NEIEP Apprenticeship program. NEIEP graduates may use these credits toward a degree at Thomas Edison State College, or may be able to apply them at a Community, State, or Private College or University of their choosing.

Joe Devlin, NEIEP’s former Assistant National Director, was an integral part of the assessment team. Devlin has long been a proponent of NEIEP graduates continuing their education, and is excited about the opportunities for NEIEP graduates associated with the assessment.

“In the past, the technology changed - or rather, evolved - much slower than it does today,” he said. “You must continue to educate yourself to acquire the skills to ‘learn’ so you can stay abreast of the changes you face in the work environment. A college degree indicates to your employer that you are willing to accept new assignments as you assimilate to trends in our trade. Being able to obtain these credits through Thomas Edison College gives all IUEC NEIEP graduates the opportunity to meet requirements for college degrees at a multitude of institutions. Portability of NEIEP courses at a collegiate level provides flexibility for higher education.”

Marc Singer, Vice Provost for the Collegiate Credit Assessment Center at Thomas Edison State College, said that an Academic Program Review saves employers tuition reimbursement dollars and helps many employees earn a college education.

“In addition, an Academic Program Review brings experts to an organization’s training site, and can help them validate the quality of their training and help them retain their competitive advantage,” said Singer. “Superior training increases productivity, helps with employee recruitment and retention, and allows organizations to sharpen the pursuit of their missions.”

Singer noted that one important result of a successful Academic Program Review is that it provides additional leverage for workplace learners to continue or complete their college education in record numbers, and creates a partnership with Thomas Edison State College, known worldwide for its excellence in educating adults and assessing prior learning from all sources.

According to a recent U.S. Department of Education Study, more than 40 percent of American adults take part in some type of adult learning activity each year — the vast majority for work-related reasons or because they want to earn an academic credential.

In addition to NEIEP, other organizations that have undergone a Thomas Edison Academic Program Review for their training programs, licenses, and certificates include UPS, the US Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, Capital Health System’s Polysomnography Program, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and others.

For further information on Thomas Edison State College’s Office for Professional and Workplace Learning, call (609) 633-6271 or visit the website at www.tesc.edu/apr. For general information about continuing your education through any of NEIEP’s partnerships with colleges and universities, contact Maggie Cleveland at 508-809-6121 or mcleveland@neiep.org.

LIFT is NEIEP’s annual publication on educational issues for the elevator industry. Our contributors provide experienced insight and thorough research to provide our readers with real-world techniques and procedures that they can apply to situations on the job. We are looking for individuals who want to assist us in this effort of providing interesting educational content that extends beyond our standard textbooks.

Previous formal writing experience is not required. Elevator Constructors of all experience backgrounds are welcome. If you’re interested in becoming part of the team of compensated LIFT contributors, please send a message to Jon Henson at jhenson@neiep.org or call (508) 809-6115.

Friendly Reminder: Student grades and attendance are due to the NEIEP office within seven (7) days from the date the class was held. Also, keep in mind that payroll closes the 7th of the month.