

Safety tip!

A. L. CASTLE OF STOCKTON, INC. 5700 Cherokee Road Stockton 95205	CHEM-SPRAY COMPANY P. O. Box 7805 Stockton 95207
COUNTRY CLUB SALES, INC. 3381 Vincent Dr Pleasant Hill 94523	WILBUR-ELLIS - Specialty Ag P. O. Box 568 Salinas 93902
EL CAMINO CROP SUPPLY, INC. 37342 Blacow Road Fremont 94536	EWING IRRIGATION PRODUCTS 2462 Polvorosa Ave San Leandro 94577

The following information was from the May issue of the Berryessa Union School District Dispatch.

Electricians, welders, or any worker who comes in contact with electric arcs should be aware of a dangerous hazard associated with the arcs.

Two workers were permanently blinded recently after working with the arcs, according to a report from the Commonwealth Electric and Electrical Workers Local Union.

In one incident, a worker threw an electric switch into a closed position which produced a short-lived sparking. In a separate incident, a welder flipped open the colored lens of his welding shield to better position the welding rod. He inadvertently struck the metal to be welded, producing the arc.

Both men were wearing contact lenses. On returning home from work they removed the contacts and the cornea of the eye was removed with the lens, causing permanent blindness.

The electric arc generates microwaves that instantly dry up the fluid between the eye and the lens, causing the cornea to be bonded to the lens. This bonding is painless and the individual never knows there is an injury until removing the contact.

Since this phenomenon was unknown, no federal or state safety and health agency has regulations on this matter, but it is under investigation. In the meantime, it is recommended that no contact lenses be worn by anyone who is potentially subject to an electrical sparking situation.