

THE SAFE STEP

Your connection to protecting those who improve your community



CIRCUIT BREAKER PROTECTION ALERT

The Problem

Your circuit breaker panel could be a potential fire risk. Due to specific manufacturer product design flaws associated with panels and breakers manufactured from the 1950's to the 1980's, certain components are subject to failure and could create a hazardous fire situation. Specifically, these panel components have been known to “fail to trip” during overcurrent conditions. The dangerous result is overheating of the plastic components, causing them to melt to the bus bar of the panel. This prevents the breaker from adequately breaking the circuit when too much current comes in from the external utility supplier, which could lead to very significant damage and/or fire to your building.

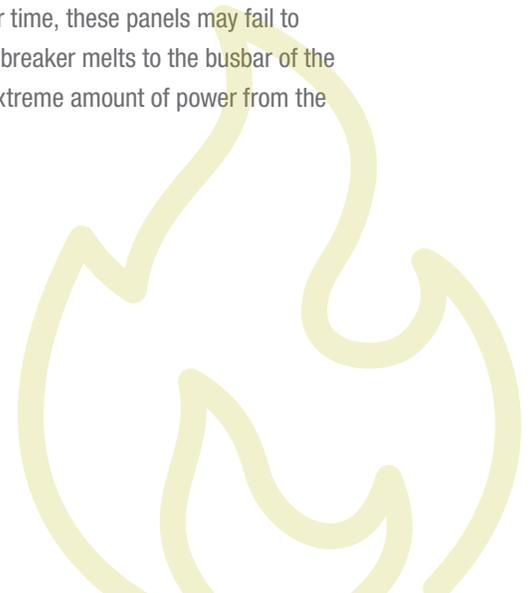
THE FOLLOWING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IS COVERED UNDER THIS ALERT:

Federal Pacific Breakers

The primary issue with these types of breakers includes failing to trip at 135% and 200% of rated current. Additionally, the double pole breakers have been found to mechanically jam, meaning that these breakers can fail to properly trip when overloaded.

Zinsco Panels

These panels can work fine for years, but as energy demands continue to increase over time, these panels may fail to “trip” when necessary and overheat causing portions of it to melt. In this situation, if a breaker melts to the busbar of the panel and can no longer adequately trip in case of an over current or short circuit, an extreme amount of power from the outside electrical supply surges into panels and circuits.



The Solution

Take corrective action! The recommended method of repair is the complete replacement of the entire circuit breaker panel, not just the individual breakers.

Suggested To DO

-  Distribute this alert to relevant maintenance personnel.

-  Assess all electrical equipment and determine if any recalled equipment is in use.

- Use a licensed electrician:
 -  • If you are not able to identify existing equipment
 -  • To replace recalled electrical equipment

-  Request Thermal Imaging Services from Great American Insurance Loss Control as additional support.

DON'T

-  Ignore this alert.?

-  Increase the risk of loss by doing nothing.

-  Fail to take action.

The Benefit

Protecting and properly maintaining your circuit breakers helps to protect your valuable assets including computers, phones and appliances vital to the sustainability of your organization. It can also prevent possible data loss/compromise.

Great American Can Help!

Great American Loss Control uses FLIR C2 Thermal Imaging cameras – the world's first full-featured pocket-sized infrared (thermal) camera designed for a wide range of building and electrical/mechanical applications. The lightweight, but powerful device can be used to perform quick checks of main electrical panels during routine building surveys. It can also detect water damage in buildings.

Allow us to help you keep your building safe. Contact your Great American Loss Control consultant to schedule a survey of your building using this technology!