**Bigelow Laboratory Arc Flash Protection Policy**

An arc flash is a dangerous condition associated with the release of energy caused by an electric arc. An arc flash is an explosion causing severe burns, injuries and/or death depending on the severity. Most workers realize that electrical shock is potentially life threatening, but many do not understand that wearing clothing that is not flame resistant can result in severe harm or death if it is ignited in an electrical arc flash.

It is the policy of Bigelow Laboratory to de-energize the power source before performing any work on a system, however, we understand that at times it may be necessary to be exposed to the energy source (i.e. emergency or investigative work). Before the point of exposure, workers must be protected from a potential arc flash that is always possible due to the presence of a power source. The use of proper PPE and levels of protection are simplified with the use of fire resistant garments that meet the hazard risks. Keep in mind that the use of these suits, are only needed when you are being exposed to energy, or are making contact with the power source. Once the potential for an arc flash is either removed or isolated, and the worker is protected, the protective suit is no longer needed.

It is the policy of Bigelow Laboratory that all employees use the following PPE in order to protect themselves against Arc Flash occurrences:

Know that for high risk electrical procedures, such as through the main building power switch, CMP needs to be contacted to deactivate the line. For lower high-risk electrical, protection shall be a full body 40cal. High Voltage Suit complete with a full Head Hood, Dielectric booties, and properly rated High Voltage gloves. This equipment is stored in the Electrical Services room (A011). Only those with proper training should use it.

Do check equipment before use to insure that all of the high voltage PPE has a current inspection certification. Do not use if it has expired