



Safety Alert January 2024

Subject: Electrolytic Capacitor Explosion

An incident occurred where an electrolytic capacitor exploded causing eye injuries. Electrolytic capacitors are electronic components used to store and release electrical energy. The person working on the capacitor had detected a burning smell and placed their face close to the electrical circuit to try to identify the source of the smell.

- Ensure all users have been trained in the use and risks of capacitors.

1. Electrolytic capacitors have a specific polarity, meaning they must be connected to the circuit with the correct orientation. Always check the capacitor's markings for positive (+) and negative (-) terminals and ensure proper connection. Reversing the polarity can lead to catastrophic failure e.g. the capacitor exploding.
2. Before working with electrolytic capacitors, make sure to discharge them completely. This can be done by connecting a resistor across the terminals or using a discharge tool designed for capacitors. Failure to discharge capacitors could result in electric shocks.
- 3.

