

# INFORMATIONAL SAFETY WARNING

## WATER- AND FIRE-DAMAGED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS

Fire and water damage go hand in hand. Often, equipment is not only exposed to heat, flame, or smoke, but also water when a fire is extinguished. Fire, water, or heat can affect the fuse tube and the filler material of fuses, degrading the insulation and interruption capabilities. Electrical products, such as AFCIs, GFCIs, and surge-protective devices contain electronic circuitry and other components that can be adversely affected by extreme heat, resulting in the device becoming nonfunctional and/or a potential hazard to the user. Washing, rinsing, or repairing fire-damaged products of this type should not be attempted.

Please use the following safety information to help communicate and provide guidelines on how to handle electrical equipment that has been exposed to water by flooding from natural acts such as hurricanes or emergency mitigation operations such as firefighting efforts.

The following excerpt from NEMA's "Guidelines for Handling Water-damaged Electrical Equipment" explains: "Electrical equipment and components exposed to water can be extremely dangerous if reenergized without proper reconditioning or replacement. Reductions in the integrity of electrical equipment can be caused from insulation due to moisture, debris lodged in the components, [water which can alter the equipment's operation and many other factors that can cause improper operation of the equipment] by affecting the ability of the equipment to perform [as designed or intended]."

"Damage to electrical equipment can also result from flood waters contaminated with chemicals,



sewage, oils, and other contaminants. Ocean water and salt spray can be particularly damaging due to the corrosive and conductive nature of the salt water residue." Please communicate to partners and customers that safety is our main concern and all electrical equipment should be checked and tested before being reenergized by qualified personnel before operation.

- Specific to Mersen products, any fuse or surge suppression product submerged in fresh or salt water is not recommended to be left in service or reenergized. They may pose a safety risk, and may not operate as intended under electrical fault conditions.
- Mersen will begin to mark the orders as "Impacted Priority" rating which will allow these orders to be fulfilled over standard stocking orders.

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- Mersen may expect a spike in orders on specific products and we will actively address these products with delivery dates confirmed by our supply chain.
- Please check with Mersen Customer Service on emergency-impacted orders if zero inventory is a concern as we will have a steady flow of in transit stock to our warehouses daily.
- Our supply chain is empowered to make any adjustments needed for incoming materials and component levels, and will be as proactive as possible to satisfy our customers' needs and relief efforts.

Mersen can help support you with products and expertise. From a hurricane to severe flooding, to wildfire, water, or fire damage can happen to any type of fuse or surge protective device (SPD). Unfortunately, once electrical components get wet or damaged by fire, they have to be replaced. With many products stocked and ready to ship, Mersen is ready to help during a flood or fire emergency. Visit our website for more information about [Mersen emergency assistance](#).

When rebuilding, consider the latest NEC and local building codes under the jurisdiction of your inspectors to ensure the safest and most up-to-date installations.

Equipment	Replace Equipment	Potential for Reconditioning [contact Manufacturer]	Additional Standards reference (if available)
<a href="#">Low Voltage Fuses</a> 	X		
<a href="#">Low Voltage Switchgear</a> <a href="#">Motor Control Centers</a> <a href="#">Switchboards</a> 		X	2020 NEC Section 408.8
<a href="#">Medium Voltage Fuses</a> 	X		
<a href="#">Medium Voltage Switchgear</a> 		X	2020 NEC Section 408.8
<a href="#">Enclosed Switches</a> 	X		NEMA KS 3-2010 Guidelines for Inspection and Preventive Maintenance of Switches Used in Commercial and Industrial Applications
<a href="#">Surge-protective devices</a> (transient voltage surge suppressors, surge arresters, lightning arresters) 	X		
<a href="#">Panelboards</a> <a href="#">High Power Switches</a> 	X		
<a href="#">Liquid-filled transformers</a> 	X		* [Analysis of the insulating medium is required for evaluation of this equipment]