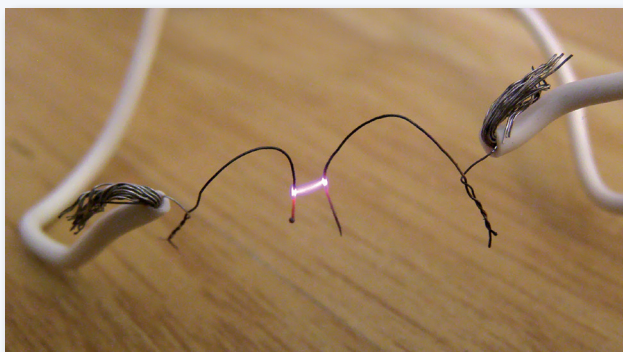


ELECTRIC ARC AND FLASHOVER



An **electric arc** is a visible plasma discharge between two electrodes that is caused by electrical current ionizing gases in the air. Electric arcs occur in nature in the form of lightning. Poorly installed (or poor quality) electrical switches, electrical circuit breakers and other electrical contact points are susceptible to these undesired arcs as contacts are opened and closed.



A **flashover** is the near-simultaneous ignition of most of the directly exposed combustible material in an enclosed area. When certain organic materials are heated, they undergo thermal decomposition and release flammable gases. Flashover occurs when the majority of the exposed surfaces in a space are heated to their auto-ignition temperature and emit flammable gases

