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From Meredith Brown racer@lanl.gov
Subject- Yellow Alert- Electrical Hazard/Shock

Title- Yellow Alert- Banana-plug Connection to Multimeter Exposes Worker to Hazardous Voltage

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Summary- While troubleshooting a high-voltage power supply, a technologist used a BNC-to-Banana connector to obtain a voltage reading on a multimeter. After obtaining the voltage reading, the power supply was turned off and the connector was grasped to remove it from the multimeter. Although the power supply was off, it was estimated that 350 volts DC was present at the connector as the initial 800 volts was still bleeding down to zero.

Discussion- The exposed prongs of the connector and the lack of recent experience of making this type of measurement lead to the worker shock. Workers were reminded that power supplies can take several seconds to bleed down to a non-hazardous voltage after being turned off. Newer connectors with insulated shrouds over the Banana prongs were identified for use during this type of measurement. This Lessons Learned has been added to the Electrical Safety Training for R&D workers.

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