

Flaherty Engineering Consulting

Forensic Electrical Engineering Services

Supporting Product Development, Claims Investigation, and Litigation



CHRISTOPH FLAHERTY is a licensed Professional Engineer in Electrical Engineering and a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator with over eight years experience conducting forensic engineering investigations. As a court-qualified expert witness, he has given trial and deposition testimony supporting his findings. Mr. Flaherty has also conducted consumer product testing and analysis in support of product development, design modification, and recall consideration. A highly regarded educator, Mr. Flaherty taught Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy for six years, demonstrating his expertise in teaching subjects ranging from basic circuits to power distribution and system characterization, while also mentoring independent design projects. Students and colleagues alike praised Mr. Flaherty's ability to distill complicated subjects into key points and to explain them in easily understandable terms, a skill appreciated by clients and juries. Mr. Flaherty's investigative approach is methodical and thorough, referencing codes and standards where appropriate, and offering opinions and conclusions based on verifiable evidence. Mr. Flaherty holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University.

Areas of Expertise

- Electrical consumer products including appliances, tools, computers, extension cords, and surge protectors
- Electrically ignited fires
- Electrical grounding and electrical shock
- Electrical commercial and industrial equipment including electric motor operated pumps, fans, and HVAC units
- Electrical power generation and distribution, including switchgear design, installation, and maintenance
- Residential and commercial building wiring
- Electrical control systems
- Conduct of work on electrical systems, including lockout/tagout procedures and other OSHA requirements

Case Experience

- Investigated numerous residential and commercial building fires potentially caused by wiring faults or appliance failures
- Evaluated switchgear design defects which contributed to a severe electrical shock accident
- Numerous evaluations of fire-damaged surge protectors and power taps
- Determined whether specific work practices contributed to electric shock accidents
- Determined the cause of a fire in an electric drag racer
- Evaluated remote operation system for an industrial crane
- Evaluated code compliance of building and special installation wiring for various sites, including marinas and fairgrounds

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