

**Solar America Board for Codes and Standards**



# **Stakeholder Meeting on 2014 National Electrical Code Proposed Revisions**

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**Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs)**

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# Solar ABCs

Solar ABCs is a collaborative effort among experts to provide coordinated recommendations to codes and standards making bodies for existing and new solar technologies.

## Acknowledgement

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# Solar ABCs

## *High Priority Safety Issues*

- Grounding
- Ground Fault Detection Blindspot
- Fire Classification Rating for Modules and Systems



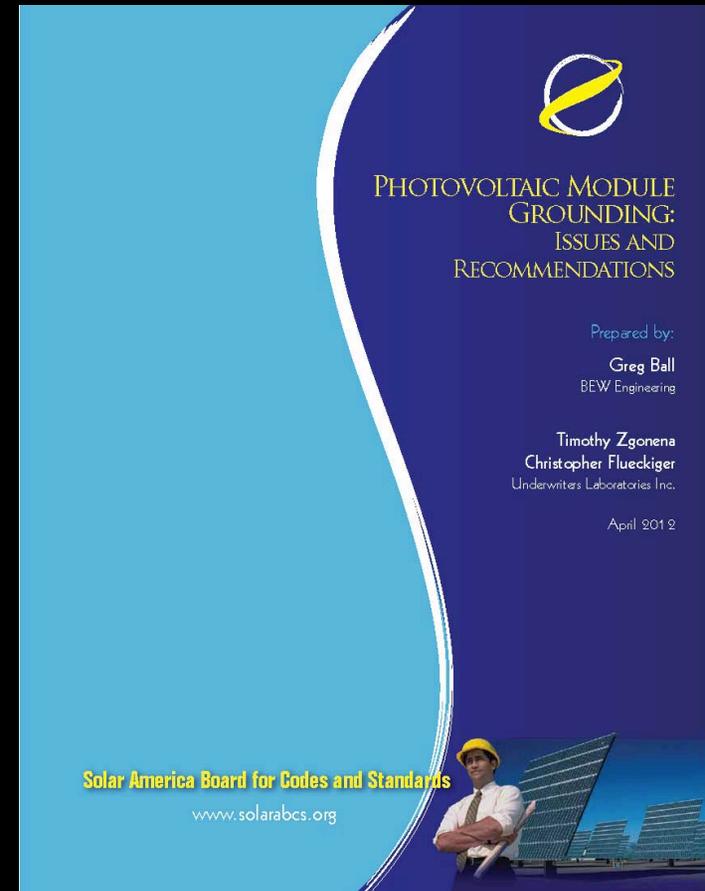
# Solar ABCs Support for NEC

- Convene this meeting to facilitate broad Stakeholder input
- Provide direct funding for key individuals active in the process of *NEC* revisions:
  - Bill Brooks
  - John Wiles
- Related Studies and Activities as Follows:



# Grounding PV Modules

- Recommendations for changes to standards to respond to two problems:
  - Limited number of approved grounding methods
  - Lack of confidence in the reliability of existing approved grounding methods



# PV System Grounding

- *NEC* requirements are complex
- Clarifies requirements
- Suggests appropriate grounding configurations
- Will be published Q3 2012



# Additional Grounding Report in Development

- Corrosion Issues



# Ground-Fault Protection Blindspot

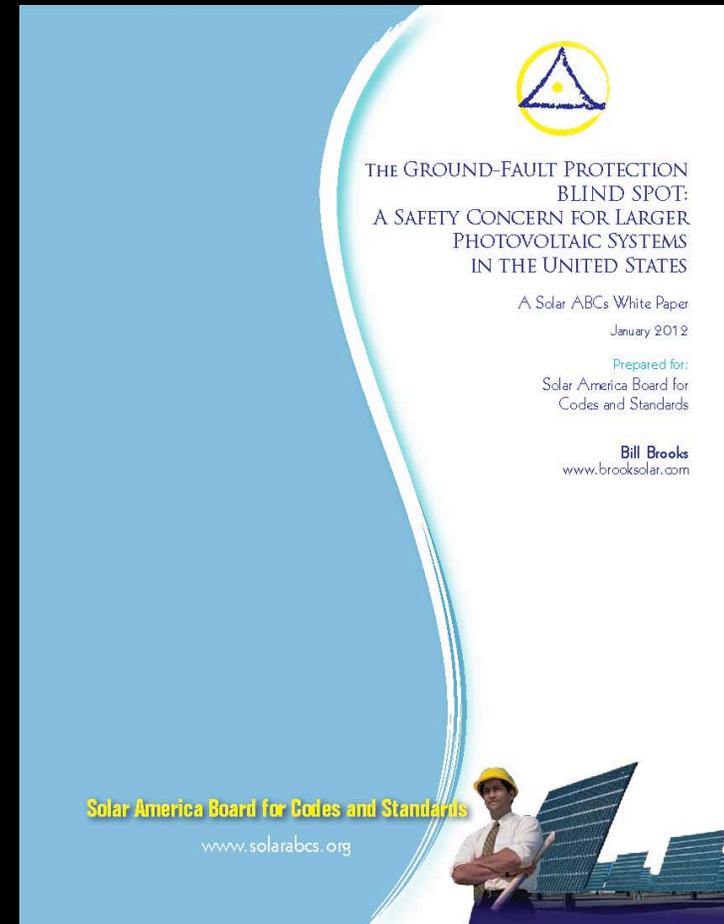
Recent fires on large PV Systems have had similar origins

- April 5, 2008 – Bakersfield, California
- April 16, 2011 – Mount Holly, NC
- Others



# Solar ABCs White Paper

- Describes problem
- Identifies potential mitigation strategies



# Solar ABCs Project

- Research (almost complete)
  - Characterize leakage currents
  - Determine the conditions where existing ground-fault protection is inadequate
- Report with Recommendations (early 2013)



# Opportunities for Involvement in Solar ABCs

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Stakeholder Meetings and Webinars
- Comment on draft Reports and other documents

<http://www.solarabcs.org>



# For more information

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