Working in solar, safety is paramount

The renewable energy industry is growing exponentially to meet our world's demand for electricity. At utility-scale solar installations, electricians and technicians from a wide range of professional backgrounds work with rapidly evolving technologies in photovoltaic (PV) modules, inverters, and metering.

"I was transitioning out of the Navy and looking for a job that was technical. I enjoyed troubleshooting. I enjoyed working with my hands, and I enjoyed being outside," says Stephen San Juan. "I didn't have a deep passion for renewables. It was quite literally what's gonna put food on the table for my kids and my family."

While solar professionals' backgrounds may be varied, their requirements are not: when commissioning, maintaining, or troubleshooting a PV system, the stakes for safety are high—and they need solar test tools designed to handle the job.

The years have passed quickly for Stephen. Today, he's a recognized solar safety expert, trainer, and co-CEO of Rise Renewable Energy, LLC, in California's Antelope Valley—at the center of one of the greatest concentrations of renewable energy generation in the world.

"Since then, I've developed a deep passion for what renewables are," he continues. "The technology is ever improving."

Stephen was one of the first to work with the Fluke 393 Solar Clamp Meter, a tool that's specifically designed for high-voltage DC environments: PV arrays, wind power, electric railways, data centers, and battery banks for uninterruptible power supplies.

"Safety is always paramount," Stephen believes. "You have to have the most safe environment at all times. And your meter, you're trusting it with your life.

"The most useful feature of this meter that the solar industry needs is the 1500 volt CAT III rating, something that the industry desperately needs. The internal fusing and protection features are almost idiot-proofing a meter, so that a manager can stick this in someone's hand and it's going to get the job done safely, with that Fluke backing that the industry knows and loves."

Watch the full video at www.fluke.com/en-us/learn/blog/renewable-energy/pv-system-safety