

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Volume 23

Number 11

3/14/2022

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PO Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

www.safetymeetingoutlines.com

Job Name _____ Date _____

GFCIs and AEGCP

Every year, hundreds of workers are killed by ground faults—tiny short circuits in electrical devices or wiring. A ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) is a device designed to protect you from such electrical hazards. The use of GFCIs has reduced the number of electrocutions dramatically.

A GFCI is a fast-acting circuit breaker designed to shut off power if a ground fault occurs. It compares the amount of current going to and from any electrical equipment and shuts off the current if there is a difference of even 4 to 6 milliamperes (mA). If a GFCI is not present, a ground fault could send current through the user of the electrical device causing shock, severe electrical burns, or death.

According to OSHA's Construction Standard 29 CFR 1926.404(b)(1)(ii): All 120-volt, single-phase 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets on construction sites, which are not a part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and which are in use by employees, shall have approved ground-fault circuit interrupters for personnel protection.

There are several types of GFCIs: duplex receptacle, portable plug-in, circuit breakers, and the cord-connected type.

You will also find GFCIs around your home in your kitchen, bathroom, and outdoor receptacles. GFCIs protect you by continuously monitoring the circuit and reducing electrical hazards on construction sites and at home.

An Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program (AEGCP) can be used instead of GFCIs for ground-fault protection. Your employer may establish and implement an AEGCP covering all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the building or structure, and equipment connected by cord and plug which are available for use or used by employees on a construction site.

This AEGCP must be in writing. A competent person must test and mark equipment before first use, before it is returned to service following any repairs, before it is used after any incident, and at intervals not exceeding three months. Check the OSHA standard for more information: 29 CFR 1926.404(b)(1)(iii).

Most employers prefer to use GFCIs to protect their employees because they find the AEGCP too difficult to keep up with. They are both designed to protect you from electrical hazards. Make sure you know which form of electrical protection is used at your jobsite.

**Never assume a GFCI protection device
is functioning properly
unless you test it.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.