

## **Weekly Safety Meeting**

Safety by Design hopes you and your team benefit from this Tool Box Talk. Please note that this Tool Box Talk is intended as an overview of key points regarding this subject and is not intended to be complete training in accordance with any regulatory standards. If you have any questions or would like to obtain the appropriate training, please call Safety by Design at (832) 425-0556, or email us at info@safetybydesigninc.com. Thank you, and remember to always stay safe.

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Date</b>

### **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)**

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007, there were 1,480 workplace injuries from electrical shock and 1,100 injuries caused by contact with electric current that resulted in burns.

The National Fire Protection Association report for 2008 states that electrical fires and electrical failures or malfunctions result in an average of 53,600 home fires each year. These fires cause more than 500 deaths, injure 1,400 people, and account for \$1.4 billion in property damage.

Purpose of the GFCI

A ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) is used to protect people from electrical shock hazards caused by malfunctioning electrical appliances (i.e. power tools). An electrical current as small as 10 milliamperes (mA) across the chest of a person is reported to cause the heart to beat irregularly, possibly resulting in death.

#### **GFCI General Information:**

- Protects you against electric shock
- It’s a fast acting circuit breaker
- Continuously monitors amount of current going to a tool and compares it to the amount of current returning along the electrical path. If the difference is more than 5 milliamps the GFCI will trip
- When a GFCI trips it shuts off the electricity in 1/40 of a second
- The GFCI will not protect you from line-to-line contact hazards (i.e., holding two "hot" wires or a hot and a neutral wire in each hand)

#### **Jobsite Rules:**

- ALWAYS use a GFCI when using plug and cord equipment, especially extension cords
- ALWAYS test the GFCI before use by plugging it in, pushing the test button and then pushing the reset button
- If the GFCI won’t test or reset then remove it from service immediately
- You should document all your inspections, even on portable GFCI (“pig tails”).
- ALWAYS plug the GFCI in at the source of the electricity (outlet or receptacle)
- Surge Protectors are NOT GFCI’s and must not be used on construction sites.
- If a GFCI interrupts the circuit and stops the current flow to the appliance, you should unplug the appliance, and then press the “reset” button. If you try to plug the appliance back in and the GFCI pops again, then you should get the appliance serviced and repaired before trying to use it again, or replace it with a properly working unit.
- If you find a GFCI that does not work properly or you see that it has some physical damage, you need to notify your supervisor so that it can be promptly repaired and returned to service.

Basic Fire Safety

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- While the GFCI has increased safety, one should never forget the danger that exists when water and electricity come in contact with each other.

GFCI's can protect you if you use them.

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS COVERED: (I.E. Hazcom, Emergency Plan)**

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2.
3.

### MEETING ATTENDEES:

PRINT NAME	SIGN NAME	EMPLOYEE NUMBER
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