SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____

Meeting Leader _____ Title _____

Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____

Subject of Meeting GROUND FAULT PROTECTION (GFCIs)

OSHA ground fault protection rules and regulations are necessary for employee safety and health. Therefore, it is the employer's responsibility to provide either (1) Ground fault circuit interrupters on construction sites for receptacle outlets in use and not part of the permanent wiring; or (2) a scheduled and recorded assured equipment grounding conductor program on construction sites, covering all cord sets, receptacles that are not part of the permanent wiring of the building or structure, and equipment conducted by cord or plug that are for use or used by employees. Many employers use both (1) and (2).**

If the employer chooses this option, this protection is required in addition to, not as a substitute for, the OSHA grounding requirements. With this option, the employer is required to provide ground fault circuit interrupters for all 120 volt, single phase, 15 and 20 amp. Receptacle outlets on construction sites that are not part of the permanent wiring.

GFCIs monitor the current load for leakage to ground. They do this by monitoring the difference in current flowing out in the "hot conductor" and flowing back in the grounded neutral conductor. If you were holding a tool and were in contact with a grounded object, and the tool developed a fault from the "hot" conductor to the metal case, part of the leakage current would flow back through the equipment grounding conductor, (which hopefully is present) and part through your body to ground. Whenever the amount going out through the "hot" conductor differs from the amount returning to the GFCI by as little as 5 milliamps, the GFCI will interrupt the electric power in as little as 1/40 of a second. The GFCI does not protect the employee from line to line contact; that is if a person holds two "hot" wires or a "hot" and a neutral in each hand. It does protect however against the most common form of electric shock—the ground fault.

ALWAYS INSPECT ELECTRICAL TOOLS, CORDS, RECEPTACLES AND CORD CAPS BEFORE EACH USE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

** NOTE: The above is in compliance with current OSHA Regulations. However, the 1999 edition of the National Electrical Code (Article 305) no longer allows the option of GFCI's or the Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program for 125 volt single phase, 15, 20 or 30 ampere receptacle used on temporary wiring for construction purposes. Instead, GFCIs must be used for all the aforementioned receptacles. In industrial establishments only, where conditions of maintenance and supervision ensure that only qualified personnel are involved, an Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program may be used. And, for other than 125 volt single phase, 15, 20 and 30 ampere receptacles GFCIs or the Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program can be used. It is strongly suggested that both GFCIs and the Assured Equipment Grounding Conductor Program be used under all circumstances for reasons of both compliance and safety reasons.