Brieser CONSTRUCTION

Toolbox Talk

GFCI's- What Do They Do? - DATE 03/15/26 - 03/21/26

"Plug them in at the source," " They need to be tested quarterly and before you use them." Two phrases we hear concerning the use of GFCI's when using electricity. We follow these directions, we know what a GFCI is and what they look like. But……. Do we know what they ACTUALLY do, what they are made for, how they work, why do we need to plug in at the source of power and not at the tool or at the end of an extension cord? Can we answer any of these questions? Let us look at the GFCI a little closer.

What is a GFCI's primary purpose? TO PROTECT PEOPLE

How do they work? The GFCI will shut off the circuit in 1/5th of a second when it senses a difference of .5 milliamps or more of current leaving the source of power and returning.

Why can't I plug a GFCI in closest to me instead of at the source? Any damaged electrical cord that is plugged in at the source and not into a GFCI will not be "shut off" if the GFCI trips, thus still posing an electrical hazard. When you plug the GFCI into your cord, then your tool into the GFCI and it trips, your tool is protected, but not the cord, power is still entering your cord and if your cord is the reason the GFCI tripped, the hazard still exists.

Have you ever had a GFCI trip while working? What was your reaction? Are you mad that it tripped, uttered several colorful expletives, then just went over and reset it only to have it trip again, and you get more irritated? Or did you pause, thank yourself or your coworker for using a GFCI properly because it may have just saved your life, then unplugged and inspected everything to see what may have caused the GFCI to trip?

GFCI's are used to protect you from an electrical failure. Inspect them, make sure they are working and use them properly!

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Brieser CONSTRUCTION

Toolbox Talk

Date _____ **Topic** GFCI's What Do They Do?

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Trainer _____

Start Time _____ **End Time** _____

Print Name	Signature	Print Name	Signature

Signature of Trainer: _____

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