



NFPA 70E

eSafetyLine

Common Sense Precautions

Whether working on electrical circuits and equipment, using tools and equipment powered by electricity or performing construction tasks around electricity, the potential for exposure exists. To help avoid accidents we can look at precautions offered in NFPA 70E Standard For Electrical Safety in the Workplace. Sections 110.9 Use of Equipment and 130.6 Other Precautions for Personnel Activities offer some basic, common sense ideas that will work for everyone.

For example when using portable electrical equipment 110.9 offers the following:

- Handle powered equipment in a manner that will not cause damage
- Do not use cords to raise or lower tools or equipment
- Do not fasten cords with staples or hang in a way that will damage the insulation
- Only connect equipment having a ground conductor with flexible cords (extension cord) that also have grounding conductors.
- Make sure attachment of plug and receptacle match.
- Do not remove the ground connector on any equipment cords or extension cords.
- Visually inspect equipment and cords before each use for defects.
- Tag and remove damaged equipment from service.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters in wet or highly conductive locations
- Test GFCI's according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Section 110.6 also discusses testing equipment. Electrical testing equipment needs to be rated for the work being done and designed for the environment. However, no one should be using electrical test equipment unless qualified. Section 130.6 addresses miscellaneous issues. Although many of these were written for qualified individuals doing electrical work, they can offer great common sense precautions for all skill levels. They can also be applied to tasks

that do not involve electricity. A perfect example is the reference to alertness. No one should be working around energized circuits or any other hazard when they are impaired by illness, fatigue or for any other reasons. You should also avoid blind reaching or trying to do work with an obstructed view of any electrical wires or other work. The work area should be properly lit so you can see what you are doing. Other precautions include:

- Don't wear conductive articles, such as chains or necklaces, around energized circuits or parts.
- Don't use conductive tools or materials, such as metal-line rules, scaffold parts, pipes and tubes, around energized circuits or parts unless they are barricaded or otherwise protected to prevent contact
- Don't use electric equipment around flammable materials if there is the potential they might ignite.
- Don't use conductive cleaning materials around energized circuits or parts
- Make sure electrical parts in confined or enclosed spaces have protective shields or are otherwise barricade to prevent contact.
- Do not use circuits breakers or switches to open and close circuits unless they are rated for that purpose
- Do not reclose a circuit breaker until you have determined the cause for the fault and that it is safe to do so.

In general, use common sense when working with hazards and think before you act!

Discussion Question

What determines the testing needed for a GFCI?

Answer: The manufacturer's instructions.

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date