



## Electrical Safety

Provided by Wendell Macnab  
Association Coordinator

*If you would like more  
information on workplace safety  
please contact your Association  
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### UPCOMING SEMINARS

**April 2, 8am-12pm**  
ADOSH - Forklift Train-the Trainer  
Phoenix  
Visit [www.scfaz.com](http://www.scfaz.com) to register

**Prescott Safety Works Expo**  
March 24,  
Prescott Resort Conference Center  
1500 Highway 69, Prescott  
[www.regonline.com/Prescott](http://www.regonline.com/Prescott)

**Phoenix Safety Works Expo**  
May 5 & 6,  
Fiesta Inn Resort  
2100 S Priest Drive, Tempe  
[www.regonline.com/scfphoenix](http://www.regonline.com/scfphoenix)

**FREE Safety Plan Template** for  
attendees with professional  
instruction on how to institute a  
plan in your business.

*Input your logo  
Association/Chamber's  
logo*

All businesses use electricity in some capacity. Electric shock is a potential risk that many workers face, but few think about. It is the employers' responsibility to reduce this risk and ensure a safe workplace. This can be done by following established policies and procedures designed to reduce the hazardous exposure to electricity.

Electrical risks present in most offices and businesses can be reduced by making sure that a ground fault circuit interrupter, or GFCI, is used in all areas where electrocution could occur. A GFCI is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shock. GFCIs also can prevent some electrical fires and reduce the severity of others by interrupting the flow of the electric current.

In addition to installing a GFCI, an Assured Grounding Program should be used at work sites. Assured Grounding is a procedure for testing electrical tools and extension cords to assure proper grounding, polarity and resistance. The testing is done according to a predetermined schedule outlined in the program, which helps to identify faulty equipment.

The National Fire Protection Association, or NFPA, has published the "70E Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces." This standard covers the full range of electrical safety issues. It is regarded as the tool to show employers how they can meet OSHA electrical standards. NFPA 70E includes guidelines for personal protective equipment required for different situations including Arc Flash hazards.

Arc Flash is a short circuit that flashes from one exposed live conductor to another, or to ground. The resulting ionized air creates electrically conductive superheated plasma that can reach temperatures of 5,000 degrees F or greater. The explosion takes less than one second and produces a brilliant flash, intense heat and a pressure blast equivalent to several sticks of dynamite.

Following NFPA 70E guidelines and using the proper PPE could turn such a life-threatening event into a testimonial for focusing on safety first.

For more information on workplace safety, visit [www.scfaz.com](http://www.scfaz.com) or contact your SCF Arizona Loss Control Consultant.

For more information on NFPA 70E visit:  
<http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=70E>

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