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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #515 August 19, 2011

GFCI Issue Needs Contractor Input

A properly administered Assured Grounding Program is accepted by WorkSafeBC as an alternative to the use of GFCIs.

Unfortunately, there is some opposition to the use of GFCIs within a few municipalities.

Your input can help COCA to achieve recognition for an Assured Grounding Program

Specifically, COCA is seeking input from contractors about situations where GFCIs themselves have resulted in safety problems.

For example, there have been cases where a GFCI has tripped unnecessarily and caused the saw to stop in the middle of cutting through concrete or wood.

In other cases, repeated tripping has caused workers to go up and down ladders or scaffolds, creating an increased risk of falling.

It would be very helpful to have specific examples of these and other kinds of safety problems that result from the use of GFCIs.

If you have examples, please send them to COCA, with as many details as you have – location, date – or whatever you can supply.