



Oregon

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Building Codes Division Statewide Interpretation

PROGRAM: Electrical Program
SUBJECT: Temporary Services
SOURCE: M & W Electric
REFERENCE: 2005 Oregon Electrical Specialty Code
DATE OF ISSUE: July 1, 2005
PREPARED BY: John Powell
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QUESTION: Is it required to install ground-fault-circuit-interrupters (GFCI's) as part of a temporary power service for use on construction sites or for temporary demonstrations? Are "weatherproof covers" required?

ANALYSIS:

The purpose of the ground-fault-circuit-interrupters is to prevent a person from receiving an electrical shock due to an electrical short or excessive moisture. The GFCI's are designed to operate at a fault of 4 – 6 milliamps or greater. OSHA and the National Electrical Code require the use of GFCI protection for personnel at all construction sites.

DETERMINATION:

Article 590.6 of the 2005 National Electrical Code requires the use of GFCI protection as part of the temporary service. The GFCI protection can be part of the temporary service through the use of GFCI breakers or receptacles. However, the use of GFCI breakers or receptacles is not mandatory if other GFCI devices are being used. Cord-sets or other devices that utilize incorporated, certified ground-fault circuit interrupters are permitted in place of devices used in the temporary service. A request to energize a temporary service cannot be denied due to the lack of GFCI devices as part of the temporary service. An inspector can request a temporary service be disconnected and/or place a phone call to OSHA to ensure compliance with Article 590.6. Additionally, the use of "weatherproof covers" is required by Article 406.8 of the 2005 National Electrical Code.