# THE MPPD MINUTE

June 2024

## Home Safety: Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters VS Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters

The world of electricity is filled with acronyms and abbreviations – kW (kilowatt), AC (alternating current), and POV (peak operating voltage). GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupters) and AFCI (arc fault circuit interrupters) are also common electrical abbreviations. They both help protect your outlets from electrical accidents.

Ground fault circuit interrupters help prevent burns, electric shocks, and electrocution. A GFCI has sensors that measure the current going in and out. Normally, the current is balanced. However, if the current is out of balance, something is wrong. The electric current has made contact with a human or somewhere else it should not be. The GFCI senses this and instantly shuts down the circuit, stopping the flow of electricity. Since water is an electric conductor, GFCIs are important in areas where water and electricity could meet, such as bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, and garages.

Arc fault circuit interrupters help prevent electric fires. Electricity can leak out of damaged or decaying wires and start a fire. These fires spread quickly in the wiring behind walls. Electric fires cause more damage than some other types of fire and are twice as deadly. AFCIs sense electricity is leaking from the electric system and shut electricity off before overheating happens.

GFCIs prevent shocks, and AFCIs prevent fires. Both should be installed by a qualified electrician to make your home safer. SafeElectricity.org

Crews upgrade the power transformer at Trenton Substation to increase capacity and cover new load growth.

Spring is always a busy time for career and safety presentations. Southwest, McCook, and St. Patrick 7th graders visit MPPD during their vocational day business tours. Linemen also visited the elementary students, educating them on safety around power lines and transformers.

*Left to right: Lane Wright, Todd Sitzman, and Hunter Potthoff display their safety equipment and explain the purpose of each tool.*

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.