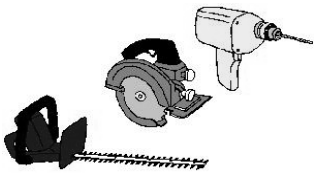


# Florence Energy News

## USE A GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER WITH EVERY POWER TOOL

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends the use of a ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock hazards. Each year, CPSC learns of approximately 20 to 30 electrocution deaths associated with power drills, saws, sanders, hedge trimmers, and other electric power tools. Most of these deaths could be prevented by the use of a GFCI.



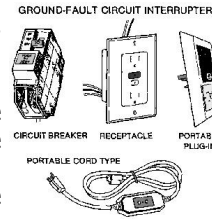
A GFCI constantly monitors current flowing in a circuit to sense any loss of current. If the current flowing through two circuit

conductors differs by a very small amount, the GFCI instantly interrupts the current flow to prevent a lethal amount of electricity from reaching the consumer. The consumer may feel a painful shock but will not be electrocuted. Grounding may provide some protection for power equipment, and double insulation of newer power tools presents lower risks of electrocution. However, GFCIs are the most effective means for protecting consumers against electrical shock hazards.

Since 1973, homes built according to the National Electrical Code have varying degrees of GFCI protection. GFCIs were first required in outdoor receptacle circuits in 1973, bathrooms in 1975, garage wall outlets in 1978, some

kitchen receptacles since 1987, and all receptacle outlets in unfinished basements and crawl spaces since 1990.

Three common types of GFCIs are available for home use: circuit breaker, receptacle, and portable types. The circuit breaker type needs to be installed by an electrician. The receptacle type may be installed by knowledgeable consumers familiar with electrical wiring practices. The portable GFCI needs no special knowledge to install. Just plug the portable GFCI into a wall receptacle and then plug the electric power tool into the GFCI. It is generally priced below \$30 and is available at hardware stores, building supply centers, and electrical supply houses.



*For more information about Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)*



## FLORENCE UTILITIES:

### DELINQUENT PAYMENT POLICIES

Our customers rely on utilities for warmth, cooking, cleaning, and recreational purposes. Some customers need electricity for health reasons which make reliable utility service a must. At Florence Utilities, we strive to provide utilities without interruption daily to more than 46,000 customers.

We appreciate it when our customers pay their utility bills in a timely manner. However, we know there are times when our customers are faced with unexpected bills, sickness, injury, or other factors that may negatively affect their normal income. During times

of financial difficulty, we make a reasonable effort to work with our customers. Listed below are tips that will allow us to better serve you during your financial hardship.

- When you receive your final notice and know you can not make the due date, please notify our Collections Department as soon as possible. Alerting us upfront will give us time to evaluate your situation and make recommendations for assistance. Also, if you wait until your utilities are disconnected, you will be subject to additional costs to have your services reconnected. We try to work with our customers when it is possible. However, it is the customer's responsibility to contact us if there is a problem.
- All special arrangements must be approved by our Collections Department. The customer must demonstrate his commitment to paying his bill and his ability to do so for special arrangements to be approved. Contacting the Collections Department early and making a significant partial payment show a good faith effort by the customer to meet his obligations.
- There are other agencies which provide programs that offer energy assistance. You need to contact these agencies immediately if you are going to try to seek help from them. Hopefully, this will allow you to meet with them before your cut-off date has passed. Florence Utilities will be glad to supply you with a listing of these agencies.
- Under strict guidelines, Florence Utilities may provide flexible payment options so that you can maintain service. A reasonable agreement for payment terms is established which must be followed completely. If you deviate from your agreement, your service will be disconnected.

Florence Utilities is committed to providing efficient, reliable utility service. Our Collections staff is ready and willing to assist you. If you have questions about our payment options, please call 760-6525.

## 2007 FLORENCE-LAUDERDALE

### ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

The City of Florence invites you to **ADOPT-A-STREET!** Beginning in April, any citizen, family, group, or organization can choose a street to adopt if you pledge to keep it clean and free of litter for a two-year period. The City of Florence will furnish you garbage bags and safety vests.



Unsightly trash along our rights-of-way is a very serious problem. How long litter lingers on our roadsides may surprise you.

| <u>Item</u>    | <u>Decomposition Time</u> |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Glass Bottle   | Approx. 1 million years   |
| Aluminum Can   | 450 years                 |
| Cigarette Butt | 1-5 years                 |
| Banana Peels   | 2-5 weeks                 |
| Plastic Bag    | 10-20 years               |

Lauderdale County residents may also participate through the County's ADOPT-A-MILE program. Filled trash bags can be left near the road for the Solid Waste or Street Departments to collect so that the litter can be put in its proper place. We will put up a sign on the street or road to note who is keeping it clean. For more information, Florence residents may call **760-6460** and Lauderdale County residents may call **760-5878**.

**Help us keep your City and County clean and litter free, because "Every Litter Bit Hurts..."**

# May - June Calendar of Events

**May 18-19:** Florence Wagon Festival

Location: McFarland Park  
Contact: 764-8370

**May 19-20:** Arts Alive Festival

Location: Wilson Park and Kennedy-Douglass Center  
Hours: 9am - 5pm  
Saturday & Sunday  
Contact: 760-6379  
[www.artsalivealabama.com](http://www.artsalivealabama.com)



**May - June:** Music in the Park

Location: Wilson Park  
Hours: 11am - 1pm Wednesdays  
Admission: Free  
Contact: 760-9648

**June 2-3:** Frontier Day Celebration

Location: Pope's Tavern Museum, Florence  
Hours: 10am - 4pm Saturday  
1pm - 4pm Sunday  
Admission: Free  
Contact: 760-6439

## ATTENTION

FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE CLOSED

THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY

MAY 28

MEMORIAL DAY

May 2007

Volume 6 , No. 9

# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

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We appreciate it when our customers pay their utility bills in a timely manner. However, we know there are times when our customers are faced with unexpected bills, sickness, injury, or other factors that may negatively affect their normal income. Listed inside are informative delinquent payment policies and tips that can help keep your service on during times of financial difficulty.

Also, in this issue is information about the Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI). The GFCI is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks. Check out the article inside about the types of GFCIs that are available.

Lastly, the City of Florence and Lauderdale County have joined arms in our battle against litter. If you would like more information, call **760-6460** if you are a City resident and **760-5878** if you are a County resident.

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)