

GFCI

Ground-fault Circuit Interrupter

GFCI Testing - Implementation Plan

GFCI Testing Plan BNL History

The February 2005 Self-assessment of the Laboratory Electrical Safety Program identified that GFCI's were not being tested per the manufacturers instructions, as required by NFPA 70E.

ATS Action Item 2725.4.1 was closed out by adding the requirement to the Subject Area.

Internal Audit & Oversight Assessment IO 06-09 – Electrical Safety Corrective Action Effectiveness Review, November 2006 found evidence that the testing is not being consistently applied.

GFCI Testing Plan History

The Laboratory Electrical Safety Committee, knowing that the manufacturers consider GFCI testing a Users test, published an Interpretation that “Test Prior To Use” is equally as safe, if not more safe, than a monthly test.

This concept was vetted and approved by Management and BHSO.

GFCI Testing Plan

For GFCI receptacles that are used intermittently – test prior to use.

For GFCI receptacles that are continuous use – test per manufacturers requirements (monthly).

For GFCI circuit breakers - test per manufacturers requirements (monthly).

For non-permanent GFCI devices – per manufacturers requirements (usually self testing)

GFCI Intermittent Use Receptacles

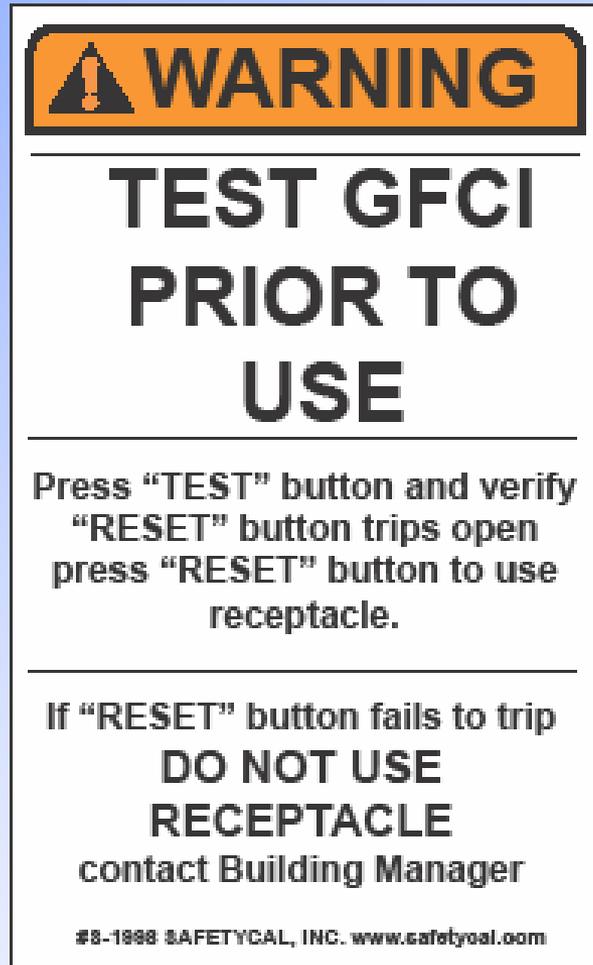
Intermittent Receptacles are mostly found in bathrooms, kitchens, kitchenettes, outside buildings, etc.



GFCI Label to be used

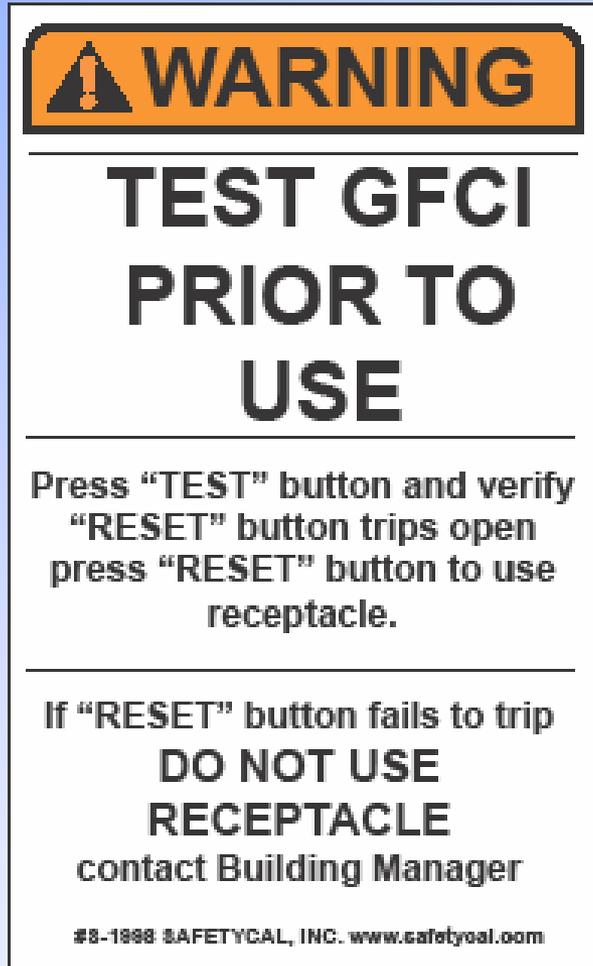
You can use any method for notifying Users.

We recommend these labels and we have a supply of them for your use.



GFCI Label to be used

For
laboratories
with
numerous
GFCI's you
can have a
posting at
entrances
and training.



The image shows a rectangular label template with a white background and a black border. At the top, there is an orange warning banner with a black exclamation mark icon and the word "WARNING" in bold black text. Below the banner, the text "TEST GFCI PRIOR TO USE" is centered in large, bold, black capital letters. A horizontal line separates this from the next section, which contains the instruction: "Press 'TEST' button and verify 'RESET' button trips open press 'RESET' button to use receptacle." Another horizontal line follows, leading to the text: "If 'RESET' button fails to trip DO NOT USE RECEPTACLE contact Building Manager". At the bottom, in smaller text, it says "#8-1998 SAFETYCAL, INC. www.safetycal.com".

WARNING

**TEST GFCI
PRIOR TO
USE**

Press "TEST" button and verify
"RESET" button trips open
press "RESET" button to use
receptacle.

If "RESET" button fails to trip
**DO NOT USE
RECEPTACLE**
contact Building Manager

#8-1998 SAFETYCAL, INC. www.safetycal.com

GFCI

Continuous Use Receptacles & Circuit Breakers

- **Continuous use GFCI receptacles & circuit breakers will have to be tested per manufacturers requirements – at this time Monthly.**
- **These include the GFCI receptacles where required or installed for:**
 - **Drinking fountains**
 - **Vending machines**
 - **Labs with equipment permanently plugged in**
- **GFCI circuit breakers are required for heat trace and will have to be tested per manufacturers requirements – at this time Monthly.**