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Website prevents Juiced Newtons

Trade association launches online resource devoted to electrical safety and education

Arc fault circuit interruption technology sounds intimidating, but the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), says it can save your life.

NEMA, based in Rossyln, Virginia, claims that this type of circuit interruption offers protection beyond standard circuit breakers through the detection of an "arc fault" which creates the type of high-intensity heat which puts a building's framing and insulation at risk of fire.

Through the launch of http://www.afcisafety.org, NEMA hopes to educate homeowners, electrical contractors and builders about arc fault circuit interrupters and the latest in electrical circuit protection technology.

"AFCIs are a technological leap forward in home safety, and they have significant potential to save lives and loss of property caused by electrical fires in the home," said Gerard Winstanley, technical program manager for NEMA.

The new website offers educational resources, product information, definitions of the latest National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements, Q&As, expert opinions and links to manufacturers of arc fault products.

Additionally, information on safety benefits, installation and use, and the overall impact that arc faults may have on the residential construction industry is available for download.

Arc fault circuit interrupters were developed in response to an identified electrical problem that causes home fires. They are endorsed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the Electrical Safety Foundation International and other prominent organizations.

The 2005 NEC currently requires that arc fault circuit breakers are installed in bedroom power and lighting circuits in new homes. The forthcoming 2008 NEC proposes and expansion to circuits throughout new homes.