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Memo – Temporary Suspension of AFCI Requirements

Date: July 24, 2023

To: General Contractors, Property Owners and Electricians

From: Chief Electrical Inspector Dennis Blair

Subject: Temporary Suspension of AFCI Requirements

This temporary suspension of AFCI requirements will expire on 1/1/2024.

Relocating electrical panels to above the Designated Flood Elevation (DFE) is strongly encouraged and required in some municipalities. This may require extending or adding length to branch circuits, which under NEC 210.12, would require adding arc-fault protection (AFCI) to those circuits.

If branch circuits are not currently Arc-fault protected, Arc-fault breakers will not be required for the relocation and replacement of flooded electrical panels, in existing dwellings, to above the DFE during this state of emergency.

This is not intended to discourage anyone wishing to offer AFCI protection, at this time. If breakers are available, property owners, electricians and insurance companies are willing to pay for code complying remediation, the Division would not object. Any additional level of protection of branch circuits to provide safety to people and property is strongly encouraged.

Any electrical panels and equipment relocated after the expiration date of (1/1/2024) will again need to comply with the NEC 210.12.

Any electrical installations currently complying with 210.12 we be expected to continue to be compliant with 210.12.

