3 ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEVICES – SAFETY MOMENT

Working with electricity has become a vital part of our everyday lives. Knowing how an electrical safety device works and what it protects is critical knowledge. Here are three common electrical safety devices.

1. **Circuit Breaker:**
   - Designed to protect the wiring in a building.
   - Detects a fault in the wiring and interrupts the flow of current.
   - A circuit breaker may “trip” when an electrical receptacle has become overloaded. One can reset the circuit breaker to restore current flow. (Note: Make sure that the circuit is no longer overloaded before resetting the circuit breaker).
   - If the circuit will not reset by turning all the way off and back on, contact an electrician.

2. **Surge Protector:**
   - Designed to protect electrical devices from voltage spikes (ex. a lightning strike).
   - Attempts to block the voltage supplied to a device above a safe threshold.

3. **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI):**
   - Designed to reduce the risk of electric shock.
   - An electric shock to a person may cause their heart to stop or cause skin burns.
   - A GFCI measures the flow of current out of the circuit and back into the circuit. If these do not match, the GFCI stops the circuit.
   - Should be tested at least once a month.

Photo References: