



## An “Assured” Grounding Program

*What’s an insurance policy for? To protect you (and possibly your family) from an unexpected injury, accident, or maybe even death.*

*An “Assured” Grounding Program is designed to protect you from an unexpected electrical injury, accident, or maybe even death.*



Greater Houston  
Chapter

**In OSHA’s Subpart K Electrical Standard**, it requires all contractors having an array of electrical tools, extension cords, electrical apparatus, etc., to have in place in **an Assured Grounding Program**.

**Here’s how OSHA describes** this program:

“The employer shall establish and implement an assured equipment grounding conductor program on construction sites covering all cord sets, receptacles which are not a part of the building or structure, and equipment connected by cord and plug which are available for use by employees.”

**And, this program shall comply** with the following minimum requirements:

- **Written description of the program**, including the special procedures adopted by the employer, shall be available at the jobsite for inspection and copying by any affected employee.
- **Employer shall designate** one or more competent persons to implement the program.
- **Competent Person** is defined by OSHA as “one who, by virtue of their industry background, experience and training, is capable of recognizing jobsite hazards, and has the authority to deal with same.”
- **Each cord set**, attachment cap, plug and receptacle of cord sets, and any equipment connected by cord and plug, shall be visibly inspected before each day’s use for external defects, such as deformed or missing pins or insulation damage, and for indications of possible internal damage.
- **Equipment found damaged** or defective shall not be used until repaired.
- **All equipment grounding** conductors shall be tested for continuity and shall be electrically continuous.
- **Once all of the ground** assurance procedures have been conducted, it moves into Phase Two, which looks like this:
  - **Newly Purchased** cord sets, plugs, etc., shall be inspected as previously outlined.
  - **Repaired** cord sets, plugs, etc., shall be re-inspected as previously outlined.
  - **Before equipment** is used after any incident which can be reasonably suspected to have caused damage (Example: cord is run over by vehicles, equipment, etc.).
  - **At Intervals** not to exceed three (3) months.

- **Tests** must be recorded (by date tested, worker who conducted test, damage repaired, etc.).
- **Color Coding** shall be implemented to mark the cords, plug sets, etc., that are a part of the Assured Grounding Program, with a specific color to be used every three months (Example: blue marking tape for January through March...Red marking tape for April through June...etc.).

*If your company doesn't have an **Assured Grounding Program** in place, they're in major violation of **OSHA's Subpart K Electrical Standard**...and all employees are in harm's way.*