

Prevention Quick Drills

POCKET TOOLS TRAINING

August 2012

PREVENTION TRAINING

Fire Prevention Daily
Quick Drills - Easy
Access to Training

CFL Light Bulb Safety

References:
NFPA CFL Light Bulb
Safety, Used with
permission.
NFPA Public Education
Division, 1
Batterymarch Park,
Quincy, MA 02169

NOTE

Consider checking the
Consumer Product
Safety Commission
(cpsc.gov) for recalls of
CFLs that may present
a fire danger.

FACT

CFL bulbs contain a
small trace of mercury
within the glass. When
broken, mercury will
immediately dissipate
into the air.
Concentrations of
mercury will likely
approach zero in an
hour or so.

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) are becoming more common in homes and at work. In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. Below are some important safety tips to know about CFLs. Purchase CFL light bulbs that have a listing label of a recognized testing laboratory. Light bulbs labeled by a recognized testing lab will ensure that the bulb meets the latest product safety standards.

When a CFL Burns Out

- When a CFL bulb burns out it may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. This is normal and is not a fire safety issue.
- CFLs should never be discarded with household trash. The EPA recommends that consumers use local recycling options for CFLs. Contact your local government or visit epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling or earth911.org to identify local recycling options.

Be careful when removing from packaging and installing or removing from a socket.

If a CFL Breaks

- Open a window to allow the room to air out for 5 to 10 minutes.
- People and pets should leave the room.
- Turn off forced air heating or air conditioning.
- Collect broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape or a damp paper towel.
- Place the debris in a glass container with a metal cover in a safe location outside until you it can be disposed of.
- Contact local government to find out how to dispose of the jar containing the debris.
- Continue airing out the room for several hours.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169