The National Electrical Code®, which has been adopted by all 50 states, sets the minimum standard for safe electrical design, installation, and inspection to keep people and property protected from electrical hazards. The NEC® is revised every three years using public input, commentary, and technical sessions. With the introduction of the 2020 code, there have been 15 NEC® revisions since 1977, the year the median American home was built.

**1. Surge Protection is Required for Dwelling Units**

New and replaced service equipment supplying dwellings are now required to be protected by listed **Type 1 or Type 2 Surge-Protective Devices**. These protect electrical devices and appliances that may not be protected by point-of-use SPDs. It is estimated that the average home has **$15,000** worth of equipment that can be damaged by surges.

**Type 1 SPD**
Permanently connected SPDs intended for installation between the **secondary of the service transformer** and the **line side of the service disconnect overcurrent device**.

**Type 2 SPD**
Permanently connected SPDs intended for installation on the **load side of the service disconnect overcurrent device**, including SPDs located at the branch panel.

**2. Ground Fault Circuit Requirements**

**GFCI protection** is now required in all 125-volt through 250-volt receptacles supplied by single-phase branch circuits rated 150-volt or less to ground in eleven* locations of a dwelling. Dryer and range receptacles, common 250-volt receptacles in homes, require GFCI protection.

*Locations listed in NEC section 210.8(A)(1) through (A)(11)

New GFCI requirements include protection in non-dwelling locations and marinas. For more information on new 2020 NEC® requirements visit ESFI.org.

**3. Outdoor Emergency Disconnects for Dwelling Units**

Outdoor emergency disconnects are now required for new construction, home undergoing renovation, and homes having their service replaced. This allows **first responders to respond to emergencies**, such as a house fire, without potential electrical hazards. Emergency disconnects may be a service disconnect, a meter disconnect, or listed disconnect switches or circuit breakers on the supply side of each device disconnect suitable for use as service equipment.