

“KEEPING PACE” - #45

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VEHICLE SHORT CIRCUIT FIRES:

In 1992, I published an article entitled, “Vehicle Short Circuit Fires and Their Prevention.” This article may be read in the CV on my website at www.PaceForensic.com. The one minute video the article refers to shows two 16 gauge vehicle conductors, six feet long, connected to a 12 volts, D.C. vehicle battery. A torch is used to set up carbon path arcing, and the arcing lasts for well over one minute. Finally, the arcing melts the conductors completely apart without ever drawing enough current to pop a 15 or 20 ampere vehicle fuse.

To view this video, please go to www.PaceForensic.com/Video and watch Video #5.

SUCTION DEVICE:

The photograph below shows a hospital suction device which was connected to a patient’s stomach when her stomach exploded. When I arrived a day or two later, the doctors and nurses were mystified as to how this accident could have occurred.



In the photograph, the suction device is shown connected to one of three wall outlets. One of these outlets is for vacuum (suction), one is for air pressure, and one is for nitrogen.

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When I asked if the suction device could accidentally have been plugged into the “air pressure” outlet, I was told by the doctors and nurses that this was impossible, since the outlets were “non-interchangeable.” I tried it anyway. This suction device plugged into the air pressure outlet with no problem, and also into the nitrogen outlet. The doctors and nurses were dumbfounded. None of them had ever tried it, because the system had always been advertised and represented as being “non-interchangeable.”

As part of the investigation, I went around to various other hospitals in Cincinnati to test other brands of this gas delivery system. All the other brands were indeed “non-interchangeable,” but the subject system could be interchanged wherever I went. At each hospital, all were extremely surprised when I demonstrated what I had learned. As a result of the lawsuit which followed, the design of this system was changed and its units were recalled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred F. Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.
Forensic Engineer