

## AFCI circuit breakers

Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) are fairly new in the California electrical industry. Similar to ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI), they are designed to shut off the electricity to a circuit when a specific type of problem is detected. AFCIs are specifically designed to help prevent arcing, which is a common cause of electrical fires in our homes. They are placed in the electric panel (see Figure 1).

As with the [GFCI outlets](#) in our kitchens and bathrooms, the AFCI breakers in the electric panel also should be tested monthly to ensure that they are working properly. Each AFCI breaker is labeled and has a test button on it. AFCI circuit breakers typically protect all the electrical outlets and switches in the bedrooms, so monthly testing will result in any bedroom alarm clocks, televisions, video recorders, etc., needing to be reset monthly, as well.

If AFCI breakers trip regularly, consult a qualified electrician immediately to determine why the tripping is occurring.

If you have any other questions about anything, simply [contact me](#).

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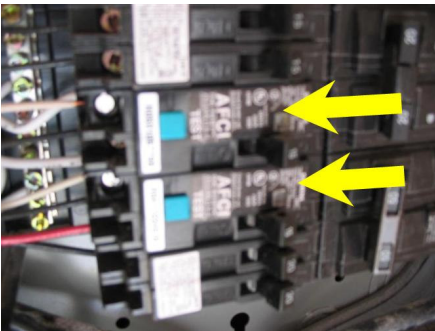


Figure 1. Arc fault circuit interrupter breakers in an electric panel.