



● **This Month's Question of the Month** - Street lighting circuits may be grounded using a multi-grounded neutral system. A) True, B) False – *See the correct answer on page 2.*

● **Note From The Chief**

The Electrical Program's fiscal year ended June 30th. The program's performance goals will be shifting with a focus on better customer service and improving our ability to reduce the effects of the underground economy and people who do not get electrical inspections.

The program's performance measures for the next year include:

- Statewide, doing 94% of all electrical inspections within 48 hours after the inspection request,
- Helping the contractors who received more than the average number of corrections per inspection in the last fiscal year improve the quality of their work – reduce corrections by 15%,
- Increasing focused compliance activity on the underground economy – contractor licensing, electrician certification, and no permit violations,
- Reduce the turn-around time for processing an electrical license to 3 days, and
- Reduce the plan review backlog to 2 weeks for an average set of plans.

We are now beginning the peak summer/fall season for construction activity. Having clear goals will help us to provide better and more consistent service for our customers.

Despite the continuing turbulent economy and large staff reductions during the past two years, we have provided high quality service. It is often difficult to balance between our mission and budget restrictions. Our continued focus on holding expenditures to the lowest possible level, continuous improvement, and meeting/exceeding our performance goals will be key to our future success in the continued improvement of our customer service.

We are in this together – creating affordable excellence.

● **Changes To Electrical Trainee Education Requirements**

Effective **July 1, 2011**, electrical trainees must have **32 hours** of basic electrical classroom education to renew or reactivate their training certificate. This is to enforce changes enacted in the 2010 legislative session to [RCW 19.28.161](#).

This means that for a trainee certificate to be renewed or reactivated on or after July 1, 2011, and prior to June 30, 2013, the trainee must have 32 hours of reported basic classroom instruction regardless of when the renewal fee was paid.

I paid my renewal fee prior to June 30, 2011 how many hours will I need to renew or reactivate my training certificate?

*If you had 16 hours of training **reported** to the department by June 30, 2011, your certificate will be issued with the 16 hours. If your hours are not **reported** to the department by June 30, 2011, you will need to complete 32 hours for your certificate to be issued.*

Effective **July 1, 2013**, electrical trainees will be required to have **48 hours** of reported basic classroom education to renew or reactivate their training certificate.

If your training certificate is placed inactive for lack of education, the class sponsor must have reported the required hours – 32 hours - July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 or 48 hours - July 1, 2013 and later.

Safety Tip of the Month!

Before removing any fuse from a circuit, be sure the switch for the circuit is open or disconnected.

When removing fuses, use an approved fuse puller and break contact on the hot side of the circuit first.

When replacing a fuse, install the fuse into the load side of the fuse clip first, then into the line side.

● Correction Reduction Initiative

The program's Correction Reduction Initiative will continue next year. In July, a new list of contractors will be developed for the coming twelve months. This last year, the identified contractor group reduced their corrections per inspection by over 20%. This year's group will again include all contractors who have more corrections per inspection than the average electrical contractor.

Because the need to reduce corrections is more important than ever, the program will continue to be proactive in helping all contractors reduce their corrections and the related reinspections. We will be closely watching for contractors who routinely have the same type of corrections on their jobs or are not improving the quality of their jobs. We will be contacting and working with those contractors to reduce their corrections. Contractors should use their monthly reports and these contacts to improve the quality of their jobs, while saving them and the Electrical Program time and money.

● Temporary Services – Modifying and Installations by General Contractors

Inspectors have been finding many temporary service installations that have been modified after the initial inspection approval. If any installation is modified, after the approval, a supplementary electrical permit and inspections is required. An example is when a hard wired feeder is connected to a temporary service panel board. Temporary services and systems may be expanded without a supplementary permit and inspection if all the connections are made by plug and cord. A permit and inspection is required when any hard wired connections are made.

Several general contractors have been found installing temporary services and feeders that are not in compliance with the WAC requirements. General contractors are allowed to make limited temporary power connections, using the owner's exemption, per WAC 296-46B-901(15). The contractor must be registered as a general contractor under chapter 18.27 RCW. The contractor can install a single electrical service per address for the purposes of temporary power during the construction phases of a project. General contractors cannot install feeders from that service unless they are cord and plug to a 50 ampere or smaller receptacle at the service. This means, a general can never connect a job site office or trailer to the temporary service. The general will need to contract all hard wired work to an electrical contractor.

The general contractor must meet all the following conditions and limitations:

- The installation is limited to the mounting and bracing of a preassembled pole or pedestal mounted service, the installation of a ground rod or ground plate, and the connection of the grounding electrode conductor to the ground rod or plate;
- The total service size does not exceed 200 amperes, 250 volts nominal;
- The service supplies no feeders;
- Branch circuits not exceeding 50 amperes each are permitted, provided such branch circuits supply only receptacles that are either part of the service equipment or are mounted on the same pole;
- The general contractor owns the electrical equipment;
- The general contractor has been hired by the property owner as the general contractor for the project;
- The general contractor must purchase an electrical work permit for the temporary service, request inspection, and obtain approval prior to energizing the service.

● Answer to This Month's Question of the Month: B) False – 2008 NEC 250.20