

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

A Newsletter from the Office of L&I Chief Electrical Inspector Wayne Molesworth February 2025

Question of the Month - When does the NEC require service equipment to be marked with the maximum available fault current?

See Page 2 for the answer.

Inspector Training—No Electrical Inspections Wednesday, February 12, 2025

A statewide approach to training improves consistency and is the most efficient way to educate our staff. Please plan accordingly.

Electrical Program Proposed Increase to Electrical Fees

The department is considering increasing fees by 6.41% for the Electrical Program to support increased expenses associated with inspections and licensing. This is the Office of Financial Management's (OFM) maximum allowable fiscal growth rate for fiscal year (FY) 2026. Each November, OFM's Expenditure Limit Committee adjusts the limit for the previous and current fiscal year for fiscal growth factors, and projects a limit for the following two years. The fiscal growth factor of 6.41% is based upon OFM's projections and is subject to revision.

The last fiscal growth factor increase took effect on July 1, 2024. A fee increase enables the program to continue providing quality and timely services to assure safe electrical installations and inspection in homes, businesses, industry and institutions to protect people and property from electrical hazards.

There is a tentatively scheduled public hearing in March 2025 and more information about this rule making in the coming months. You can find more information about this rule making activities on the [Rule Development](#) tab of our web page.

Schedule a Virtual Electrical Inspection Today

The Virtual Electrical Inspection (VEI) program has been very successful and continues to grow in popularity among electrical contractors and their electricians. During the last six months, the VEI program has averaged over 4,500 inspections per month. During a virtual inspection, an electrician on the jobsite with a mobile device interacts with a virtual inspector in real time. Same day appointments for virtual electrical inspections are available until filled.

Here are some important points to keep in mind:

- To use VEI, you will need to download the [Microsoft Teams](#) app and create a profile.
- Use our [website](#) to schedule your inspection for the day and time you want.
- VEI electrical inspections take up to 15 minutes. They do not involve new services or final approvals.
- On the jobsite, make sure you have at least a high speed internet connection on your mobile device.

Here are some reasons to use VEI:

- Get your jobs approved faster
- Quicker follow-up inspections on corrections
- Inspections the same day as requested saves time and money.

For complete details on how to use this service, check out the [VEI webpage](#).

Safety Tip of the Month

Maintain a Safe Work Environment

WISHA (the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act of 1973) obligates your employer to provide a safe place for you to work. Notify your employer immediately if you feel that a hazard exists. Both workers and employers can find assistance with safety issues at:

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/>

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages.

Access this PDF document online at:

<https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/electrical-currents-newsletter/>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/> -

Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical



Interested in becoming an electrical construction inspector?

Look for available positions at careers.wa.gov. To apply you must first take an electrical assessment. To sign up for the assessment, contact electricalassessment@lni.wa.gov.

The schedule for assessments is:

1st Tuesday of each month: [7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater](#)

2nd Tuesday of each month: [12806 Gateway Drive S, Tukwila](#)

3rd Tuesday of each month: [3001 W Broadway Avenue, Moses Lake](#)

You are required to pass an assessment prior to the recruitment closing date as part of the application process for Electrical Construction Inspector positions. This is an open book assessment that covers the NEC, WAC, RCW, electrical theory and wiring diagrams. Applicants must bring all the materials they intend to use to include but not limited to codebooks and non-programmable calculators. Use of a computer or cell phone is not allowed during testing.

If you do not schedule and pass the assessment within two weeks of the position closing, you will not be considered for the position.

The assessment can take up to a total of 7 hours in which includes a one hour lunch break.

***Persons with a disability who need accommodation in the testing process may call 360-902-5700. TTY users should first call 711 to access the Washington Relay Service.*

Answer to Question of the Month:

NEC 110.24 (A) &(B) Available Fault Current. Back in the 2014 NEC, maximum available fault current markings became required for new non-dwelling service installations and any time modifications to the electrical installation occur that affect the available fault current at the service. If you are trying to determine the severity of the exposure, [NFPA-70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace](#) is a great resource.

Picture of the Month:

If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.

A lineman working for a utility discovered this older installation in a building. They shared this image with us.

Notice the hole in the roof, open spliced conductors, water piping used as conduit, flexible cord used as a permanent wiring method, missing covers and unknown wire sizes.

There is a lot going on here, do you see anything else?



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Electrical Section website: www.lni.wa.gov/ - Select Licensing & Permits, then Electrical

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