

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

October 2025

Questions of the Month:

The picture of the month on Page 2 shows a termination cabinet for a permanently installed generator. Notice the wire in the lower left (red arrow) that is not connected. The opposite end connects to the equipment grounding bar to the right of the breaker. How would you determine when this wire is required to be connected to the neutral bar above it?

Safety Tip of the Month

Never assume a circuit is de-energized—*always verify absence of voltage*. Use a properly rated tester on all conductors, including ungrounded, neutral, and equipment ground. Confirm your tester works on a known live source before and after use. This simple habit prevents serious injury and saves lives. Whether in panels or junction boxes, testing is essential. Electricity is unforgiving—make “test before you touch” your first move, every time.

Rulemaking Updates—Public Hearing

2026 NEC Adoption , NM-B Temperature Rating, Clarifying Deadlines for Trainees to Repot hours of Work Experience

The agency filed a [CR-102 Proposed Rulemaking](#) on Sept. 2, 2025. If adopted, the rules would take effect Dec. 19, 2025.

Review the [draft proposed rules](#). Learn more: [L&I rulemaking](#) or the [Electrical Laws, Rules and Policies page](#).

A public hearing on the proposed rules will take place **Oct. 7, 2025, at 9 a.m.** at L&I headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way S.W., Tumwater, WA. You can also join by:

- **Zoom:** Click [here](#) to join the meeting: Passcode: pL44P%*N
- **Telephone:** 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 828 5066 4292 Passcode: 45660174
- **Testimony and Written Comments:** If you are unable to attend and testify, send your written testimony by **5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025** to: Meagan Edwards Email: Meagan.Edwards@lni.wa.gov or by mail Department of Labor & Industries, P.O. Box 44400, Olympia, WA 98504-4400

2026 NEC Published! What’s New?

The 2026 National Electrical Code introduces key changes to improve clarity and reflect modern practices. Chapter 2 now separates rules for 1000V AC and 1500V DC systems. Chapter 8 is no longer standalone—Chapters 1–4 now apply. Article 750 covers grounding for limited energy systems, and Annex L previews the 2029 NEC structure. Reorganized sections, clearer terms, and updated demand factors make this edition more user-friendly and future-ready.

Shape the 2029 NEC®!

Public input is now open for the 2029 National Electrical Code®. Submit your ideas by **April 9, 2026** via the “Next Edition” tab on the [NFPA 70 page](#). A free NFPA account is required to participate.

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



Important Changes to (01) Trainee/Apprentice Hour Reporting –

Effective July 1, 2026, Part 2:

In the last edition, we covered how trainees and apprentices qualify for the (01) electrician exam. This article explains who can perform the work limited to (01) electricians. Beginning July 1, 2026, there are no provisions allowing trainees to perform work limited to (01) electricians without being in a registered general electrician (01) apprenticeship program. Only certified (01) journey-level electricians and registered (01) apprentices will be permitted to perform (01) work, even on a volunteer basis.

Reporting (01) hours starting July 1, 2026: Hours of experience worked after that date do not count toward qualifying for a (01) electrical exam unless worked while registered in an apprenticeship program. Hours worked starting July 1, 2026 will be reported through registered general electrician (01) apprenticeship programs.

Learn more about [electrical apprenticeship](#).

Become an Electrical Construction Inspector

Explore openings at careers.wa.gov. Openings are for [Inspector 1](#) positions. After you successfully complete your two year training period, you will promote to [Inspector 2](#).

To qualify, meet minimum requirements and score at least 70% on an open-book assessment within two weeks of the job posting's close. The test covers the 2020 NEC, electrical theory, wiring diagrams, and laws and rules of Washington. No computers or cell phones allowed. Ask questions and schedule your assessment at electricalassessment@lni.wa.gov

Assessments are offered:

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: [901 N Monroe Street, Suite 100, Spokane](#)

Answer to Question of the Month with Picture of the Month:

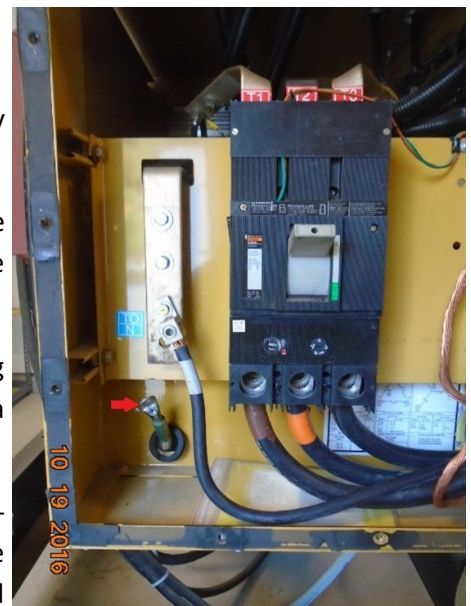
If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.

First, look at the transfer switch to determine if the generator is a separately derived system (See Informational Note 1, NEC® 250.30).

If the neutral is switched with the phase conductors in the transfer switch, the generator is a separately derived system. It must be grounded in accordance with NEC® 250.30 in the same way a typical transformer is grounded.

The wire that is disconnected in the picture would be the system bonding jumper and must be connected to the generator neutral bar, along with a grounding electrode conductor connected to the building electrode system.

If the transfer switch does not switch the neutral, the generator is a non-separately derived system. In this case, the wire in the picture must not be connected to the neutral bar. Doing so would create a parallel path for neutral current and violate NEC® 250.24(B).



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

This document is available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. For assistance, call 1-800-547-8367. (TDD/TTY users, please call 360-902-5797.) Labor & Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.