

Question of the Month

Is Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (AFCI) protection required for existing dwelling unit branch circuits when replacing circuit breakers or changing a panel? *See correct answer on Page 2*

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- Anyone can view education credit, affidavit hours, and lapses in trainee certification using our verify tool (<https://secure.lni.wa.gov/verify/>).

AFCI Safety

According to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association's (NEMA) website [AFCI Safety](#): "Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) were created as a direct response to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report conducted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) that identified an electrical problem in branch circuit wiring systems that was causing numerous residential fires.

In 1999, AFCIs became a requirement in the National Electrical Code (NEC®). An AFCI breaker provides a higher level of protection than a standard circuit breaker by detecting and stopping a hazardous arcing condition before it can become an electrical fire."

Learn about safe and effective ways to install and troubleshoot issues with AFCIs: www.afcisafety.org/ul-training-course/.

Get help from AFCI manufacturers for unwanted tripping issues: www.afcisafety.org/home-owners/unwanted-tripping/.

Temporary Allowances for Trainees Ending on March 31, 2022

After receiving advice from the Electrical Board during last week's meeting, we are announcing March 31, 2022 as the end date for temporary allowances for trainees. After March 31, 2022:

- Education providers must cease virtual delivery of [basic classroom instruction](#) classes for trainees. All instruction after March 31, 2022 must be in person.
- Trainees expiring before April 1, 2022 may continue to work legally for 90 days from the date their certificate expires. Such trainees must complete 48 hours of basic classroom instruction and renew no later than 90 days after their expiration date.
- Trainees expiring on or after April 1, 2022 must complete 48 hours of basic classroom instruction and renew before their expiration date.

Safety Tip of the Month

With the end of Daylights saving time, daylight is very limited this time of the year. High visibility is your best bet for safe working or outdoor activities in low light conditions. Always wear reflective clothing or accessories so that others can see you. Wearing reflective clothing reduces the possibility of injury from a motor vehicle or other mobile equipment.

Be safe be seen.

Response Times and Inspector Vacancies

Every inspection request is important. Until staffing levels improve, installations that pose life-safety risks, hold up other trades or industry, or delay property transactions are a priority.

Response times for other installations may be delayed. We appreciate your patience and cooperation while we work to resolve this issue. Learn more about how to communicate with our staff in the [October 2021](#) edition of this newsletter.

Now Hiring in Your Back Yard – Become an Electrical Inspector Today!

Tired of not knowing where your next job will be? Or fighting traffic getting there? Ready for a change?

We have about 35 vacancies, come join our team: [Become an L&I Electrical Inspector](#).

Being an electrical inspector is a great job for people who like people. If this describes you, and you are a Washington 01 master electrician or Washington 01 journey level electrician who has held that certificate for at least 4 years, please consider a job as an electrical inspector.

Find an opening near you and an application:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington?keywords=L%26I%20electrical>

For further information, please contact: Jobs@Lni.wa.gov.

Rulemaking update

For almost a year, we have been updating WAC 296-46B-995 Electrical Board – Appeal Rights and Hearings. The rules governing appeals and the appeal process before the Electrical Board are confusing and out of date. L&I accepted a petition for rulemaking from the state’s Electrical Board to amend the rules for the purposes of clarifying, simplifying, and making the procedures for appeals to the board easier to understand and navigate.

We are ready to file the rule change with the state Registrar’s office in early December with public input and comment opportunities coming after the holidays in early January. The goal is to have these rules in place in April 2022.

Stay up to date with these rules by checking the rulemaking page on our website. <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/laws-rules-policies>

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*

Is there a code violation in this picture? The NEC establishes minimum standards for electrical installations and electricians are welcome to overbuild their services.

Answer to Question of the Month Not always. An exception to 2020 NEC 210.12(D) states AFCI protection shall not be required where the extension of the existing conductors is not more than 6 ft. and does not include any additional outlets or devices. This would allow circuit breakers or a panel to be replaced without providing AFCI protection if the conditions in the exception are met. If a circuit is extended more than 6 ft., 2020 NEC 210.12(D) requires AFCI protection where branch-circuit wiring is modified, replaced, or extended in any of the areas specified in 210.12(A), (B), or (C).



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