

Wayne Molesworth, Chief Electrical Inspector

Vol. 25 No. 1

January 2022

Question of the Month

See the correct answer on page 2

How long is the window for renewing an electrician certificate without requiring the electrician to retake the examination?

Rule Making Public Hearing

For almost a year, we have been updating WAC 296-46B-995 *Electrical Board – Appeal Rights and Hearings*. There will be a public hearing on *January 6, 2022*. This chance for public input is remote using virtual and telephonic means.

Learn how to attend or submit written comments by viewing the [Public Hearing Information Packet](#) on our [Electrical Laws, Rules and Policies web page](#).

The rules governing appeals and the appeal process before the Electrical Board are confusing and out of date. We are clarifying, simplifying, and making the procedures for appeals to the board easier to understand and navigate. If adopted, the new procedures for appeals are expected go into effect April 1, 2022.

Supply Side Emergency Disconnects

New requirements for outdoor emergency disconnects for one- and two-family dwellings in NEC 230.85 and the supply side allowances in NEC 230.82 (5) and (10) are making things interesting for everyone.

The purpose of this article is to clarify a few things in regards to supply side emergency disconnects labeled EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT.

- **Approvable:** Switches, circuit breakers, or manual or automatic transfer switches listed and labeled as “Suitable for use as service equipment” where bonding of non-current-carrying metal parts to the grounded conductor complies with Part V of NEC Article 250. Typically, 3 wires in, 3 wires out, neutral properly bonded to the disconnect enclosure.
- **Not approvable** whenever labeled EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT: Equipment labeled “Suitable for use only as service equipment” or equipment like a panel board that allows points of connection for equipment not allowed on the supply side by NEC 230.82(10).

When connecting interconnected electric power production equipment, like generators, to transfer switches used as supply side emergency disconnects labeled EMERGENCY DISCONNECT, NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT, all non-current-carrying metal parts must be bonded to the grounded conductor as required in Parts V of NEC Article 250. Equipment grounding must comply with Part VII of NEC Article 250. Typically, 3 wires in, 3 wires out, neutral and any equipment grounds properly bonded to the disconnect enclosure.

Safety Tip of the Month

Working outside in the cold months can be hazardous. Being aware of the signs of hypothermia can help save a life.

- Uncontrollable shivering –
- Pallid Cold skin – Slurred Speech –
- Loss of consciousness – Drowsiness –
- Nausea – Clumsiness – Confusion –

To help someone you think might have hypothermia get him or her:

- Medical attention – a warm place –
- Remove wet clothing –
- Warm them under dry blankets or clothes –

Learn more at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/hypothermia.html>

Apply to be an Electrical Inspector Today!

If you enjoy putting your knowledge to the test, helping people and battling the underground economy, then it may be the right time to join our team. Inspectors have a great benefit package and a work/life balance that is hard to find working in the field.

In the past few months, we have filled a few vacancies, but there are still many openings across the state and all areas are recruiting. If you are a Washington 01 master electrician or a Washington 01 journey level electrician who has held that certificate for at least 4 years.

Find an application for an opening near you:

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

For questions, please contact: Jobs@Lni.wa.gov.

Virtual Electrical Inspection Program Grows

Contractors and electricians are the ones to thank for the growth and success of the [Virtual Electrical Inspection](#) (VEI) program.

In 2019, VEI started as a pilot program with three inspectors. Today, there are 10 full time VEI inspectors, each one averaging over 15 inspections a day. They are not the only ones working hard, our field inspectors made about 270,000 inspection stops last year!

Contractors and electricians say that getting a VEI before they leave the jobsite is convenient for their customers. Corrections are usually resolved during the inspection. With no return trips, everyone saves time and money.

How VEI works:

- A journey level or specialty electrician must participate during the inspection.
- VEI is just for inspections that take 15 minutes or less, including services under 400 amps.
- We use the *SKYPE Application* for VEI. Here is a [step-by-step guide](#) to help you get set up.
- On the jobsite, make sure you have at least a 4G, LTE, or Wi-Fi connection.
- Use Google Chrome to [schedule](#) your inspection for the day and time you want.
- Questions? Contact us at 360-902-5299 or VirtualElectricalInspection@Lni.wa.gov.

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

NM-B cable, conduit straps and duct tape! Oh my! Nothing is going right in this picture. Luckily, this was found before someone was injured. From the indoor boxes with the duct tape seals, indoor panel and SE cable across the ground it is an accident waiting to happen. How many violations can you find?

Answer to Question of the Month

180 days – An electrician's certificate can be renewed ninety days prior the day of expiration and ninety days after the expiration date. Renewing after the expiration date will cause the renewal fee to double. Waiting more than ninety days after the expiration date requires reexamination. Save the time and money, renew online [here](#).



This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to:

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

Electrical Section Internet Address: <https://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.