

ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

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

June 2024

Question of the Month:

According to the Department of Health (DOH), can a 120-volt septic pump and alarm for an on-site residential septic system be supplied by the same branch circuit? ?

See the answer at the bottom of page 2.

Electrical Fee Increase – Effective July 1, 2024

For a few months, we have been updating you about changes in our fee schedule. Fees have remained unchanged for the last three years.

To keep up with higher costs associated with inspection and licensing services, we have adopted rules to increase electrical fees based on the Office of Financial Management (OFM) 6.4% [fiscal growth factor](#) projections. We are currently updating all of our forms and webpages. Please dispose of any stock of forms you may have and always use hyperlinks on our website to access forms every time you print.

A fee increase allows the program to continue providing quality and timely services to assure safe electrical installations in homes, businesses, industry, and institutions to protect people and property from electrical hazards.

Something to “Spark” your interest

These sections were added or expanded in the 2023 NEC:

NEC 215.18, 225.42, and 230.67—All dwelling unit services and feeders, new or replaced shall be provided with a surge-protective device (SPD). The SPD shall be Type 1 or Type 2, and shall be an integral part of the service or distribution equipment, or be located immediately adjacent to. It can also be located at the nearest downstream distribution equipment on the load side of the feeder that contains branch circuit OCP.

NEC 230.85—For one and two family dwellings, the code now requires the disconnecting means to be installed in a readily accessible outdoor location on or within sight of the dwelling unit. See NEC Article 100 for the definition of “within site”.

RV Supply Equipment

NEC 210.8 provides requirements for Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) protection requirements receptacles. For recreation vehicle supply equipment installed on the same property as a dwelling unit, WAC [296-46B-210\(8\)\(B\)](#) amends GFCI requirements. According to the rule,

GFCI protection is not required for receptacles intended for 125/250 volt RV power supply feeders, only for 125 volt, single phase, 15 or 20 ampere RV receptacles. Use must be abundantly evident: Adequate space to park an RV, doors large enough for an RV, etc. Installers must label the panel schedule for the receptacle’s intended use.

Safety Tip of the Month

Make sure your temporary power installations are safe. Temporary power installations on construction sites, if not installed properly, can be a source of extreme hazard. Make sure your work is not the cause of a tragedy. Ensure all temporary wiring meets NEC requirements. Make sure service conductors at temporary power poles are not exposed.

If you see a hazard, SPEAK UP! You are a critical part of the safety on your job site.

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Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

RECAP – Apprenticeship Requirements for Trainees Aspiring to be (01) Journey Level Electricians and Their Employers

On July 1, 2023, changes were made for how electrical trainees qualify for the (01) journey level certification exam. Here's a recap of what everyone needs to know:

Trainees

- Trainees with fewer than 3,000 hours of electrical experience worked before July 1, 2023 had to become registered apprentices to perform work limited to (01) journey level electricians.
- Trainees with 3,000 or more hours of electrical experience worked as of July 1, 2023 or completers of approved two-year electrical construction and training programs may continue gaining (01) experience until July 1, 2026, without becoming registered apprentices.
- If you've been approved to take the certification exam before July 1, 2026, you are not required to complete the education and work experience requirements of an approved apprenticeship program, even when reapplying after that date.

Contractors

Electrical contractors wanting to hire someone that is training to become an (01) electrician have a few choices:

- Become a registered training agent for an apprenticeship program. This allows you to hire registered apprentices.
- Establish your own apprenticeship program approved through the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council.
- Hire trainees with specific experience. See the second bullet point under "Trainees" in this article.

Learn more: www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship

Trainee or Apprentice—What is the Difference?

There are two types of trainees. Only one is an apprentice.

An apprentice is a trainee who is registered in a Washington State approved apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship programs provide formal training and are regulated by the [Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship).

Typically, employers, employer associations, and labor unions sponsor apprenticeship programs. If you are a trainee who is not registered with an apprenticeship program, you are not an apprentice.

All trainees must [renew](#) their training certificate every 2 years until they pass an exam to become an electrician. Trainees and registered apprentices can view their hours of experience and renewal lapses by using our [Verify](#) tool.

Answer to the Question of the Month:

A: No—[WAC 246-272A-0238](#), enforced by DOH (not L&I) requires audible and visual alarms for all septic pumps. Pumps and alarms must be on separate circuits.

Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.* The top rail of this fence is being used as a conduit system. Violations include, but are not limited to not having the correct box connectors for the environment, open holes, and raceway listing requirements.



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