Question of the Month – See correct answer on Page 2.

According to the 2017 National Electrical Code® (NEC®), which two of the following wiring methods are permitted for the life safety branch circuit connection to a luminaire located in a T-bar ceiling 8 feet above the floor of a patient care space in a hospital? A) Type MC metal-clad cable marked “armor is grounding path component”, B) Electrical Metallic Tubing without an insulated equipment grounding conductor, C) Schedule 80 PVC conduit, D) Type MI cable with a copper outer sheath.

Invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting Near You

As announced in the December 2016 newsletter, I am holding 18 electrical stakeholder meetings in various locations across the state between January 24 and April 5, 2017. These meetings are an opportunity to talk in an informal setting. Check the schedule below and attend a meeting near you. I want to hear how we can better serve you, our customers and help you stay informed of any changes that might affect you and/or your business. Meetings are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. at the locations shown below. Meeting dates and addresses are also posted on our Electrical Calendar webpage and distributed on the program email list. If you are not on the email list, you may join at our Electrical Email List webpage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Stakeholder Meetings 6 – 8 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **January 24 – Aberdeen** – **L&I Building**  
415 West Wishkah Street, Suite B | **March 8 – Everett** – **Snohomish County PUD Commission**  
Meeting Room 2320 California Street |
| **January 25 – Tumwater** – **L&I Auditiorium**  
7273 Linderson Way Southwest | **March 9 – Tukwila** – **L&I Building**  
12806 Gateway Drive South |
| **February 7 – Longview** – **Cowlitz PUD** meeting room, 961 12th Avenue | **March 21 – Pullman** – **Gladish Community and Cultural Center**, Oscars Room, 115 NW State St. |
| **February 8 – White Salmon** – **White Salmon Valley Community Library** – 77 NE Wauna Avenue | **March 22 – Spokane** – **Spokane Falls Community College**  
3410 W. Fort George Wright Drive, Bldg 17, Sub Lounges A & B |
| **February 9 – Vancouver** – **L&I Building**  
312 Southeast Stonemill Drive | **March 23 – Moses Lake** – **L&I Building**  
3001 West Broadway Avenue |
| **February 21 – Bremerton** – **L&I Building**, basement  
500 Pacific Avenue | **March 29 – Wenatchee** – **Chelan County PUD** Auditorium, 327 N Wenatchee Avenue – Parking in back (east) side of building |
| **February 22 – Port Angeles** – **Eiwha Klallam Heritage Center**,  
401 East First Street | **March 30 – Okanogan** – **Okanogan PUD** Auditorium 1331 2nd Ave North |
| **February 23 – Tacoma** – **L&I Building**  
950 Broadway, Orcas Room, 5th floor | **April 4 – Kennewick** – **Benton PUD** Auditorium  
2721 West 10th Avenue |
| **March 7 – Mount Vernon** – **Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center**,  
16650 State Route 536 | **April 5 – Yakima** – Pacific Power Auditorium  
500 Keys Road |

Safety Tip of the Month

Portable generators are useful during power outages and on construction sites. Be aware of the dangers of improper use of portable generators. One of the most common dangers associated with portable generators is carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your generator is in a well ventilated outdoor area. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open. Place generators so that exhaust fumes will not enter the building through windows, doors, or other openings. You can download a helpful generator safety publication from the National Fire Protection Association [here](http://www.nfpa.org).
**2017 NEC® Preview: 700.3(F) Temporary Source of Power for Emergency System Maintenance**

A major change for the 2017 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) is a requirement in 700.3(F) to provide a temporary source of power for maintenance and repair of emergency systems that rely on a single alternate source of power which will be disabled for maintenance or repairs. The emergency system shall include permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power, which shall be available for the duration of the maintenance or repair. The permanent switching means to connect a portable or temporary alternate source of power shall comply with the following:

- Connection to the portable or temporary alternate source of power shall not require modification of the permanent system wiring.
- Transfer of power between the normal power source and the emergency power source shall be in accordance with 700.12, which means it must be available within 10 seconds of loss of normal power.
- The connection point for the portable or temporary alternate power source shall be marked with the phase rotation and system bonding requirements.
- Mechanical or electrical interlocking shall prevent inadvertent interconnection of power sources.
- The switching means shall include a contact point that shall annunciate at a location remote from the generator or at another facility monitoring system to indicate that the permanent emergency source is disconnected from the emergency system.

It shall be permissible to utilize manual switching to switch from the permanent source of power to the portable or temporary alternate source of power and to utilize the switching means for connection of a load bank.

If you are designing or planning to install a wiring system for a facility that requires emergency power, be aware this requirement will be enforced for all projects where the electrical permit is purchased on or after the effective date of the 2017 NEC®, currently projected for July 1, 2017.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meets to Review WAC 296-46B Rule Proposals**

I would like to express my great appreciation to the members of the 2017 TAC who volunteered a day of their valuable time to meet with the department to review and make recommendations regarding proposals to revise the electrical rules. The TAC was made up of a very diverse group of electrical program stakeholders who provided excellent feedback. After meeting with the TAC and considering their advice, we have compiled a “First Draft” of the proposed rules which contains supported proposals which will be moving forward for review by the Electrical Board at their January 26 meeting in Tacoma. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to give the department feedback at 18 stakeholder meetings scheduled throughout the state. Also, in the spring there will be a public comment period and hearing providing another opportunity for anyone to comment on the proposals. To review the First Draft, and keep up-to-date on rulemaking developments, visit the Rule Development page of our website.

**Answer to Question of the Month:** B) and D) – NEC® 517.31(C)(3) requires the wiring of the life safety and critical branches to be mechanically protected by installation in one of the listed wiring methods. Branch circuits serving patient care spaces must comply with 517.13(A) and (B). Exception No. 3 to 517.13(B) allows luminaires more than 7 ½ feet above the floor to be connected to an equipment grounding return path complying with 517.13(A) or (B), which means if EMT is used, an insulated equipment grounding conductor is not required.

This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to: [http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov](http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov)


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.