



● **This Month's Question of the Month** – EMT is not allowed to be used where \_\_\_\_\_. A) subject to severe physical damage during installation, B) connected to aluminum conduit, C) it is the only means of support for a luminaire, D) in a Class 3 area – *See the correct answer on page 2.*

● **Note From The Chief**

The Electrical Program's mission is to "Keep Washington Safe and Working." We do inspections and compliance to help ensure that electrical installers provide an electrically safe place for Washington consumers and workers to live and work and so legitimate electrical contractors do not have to compete with the underground economy. We also work collaboratively and assist our customers in complying with the electrical law using education and communication. The program leads, coordinates, and directs statewide electrical activities that promote uniform electrical installations, worker certification, licensing, and compliance.

We respect our customers and always strive to work with them to provide them the knowledge they need to succeed. It is important that we sometimes let our customers know how we have made a positive impact on their industry. We work hard to provide high quality inspections and compliance enforcement. Some of the tools we use to help our customers include: the *Electrical Currents* newsletter, a great website, electronic technology to buy permits and request inspections, renew licenses and certificates, and face-to-face stakeholder meetings and contractor trainings to educate and inform the people we work with.

We regularly receive positive comments about the customer service we deliver. Here are some of those comments:

- 25 year electrical contractor – "...very happy with the compliance work being done."
- Electrical Administrator – "...appreciate the L&I electrical divisions work on behalf of my personal betterment and that of our trade, as well as the safety of our customers."
- Manager – "...consistently provides an outstanding level of service."
- Owner – "After you explained about the hazards, it makes sense to get a permit... I really do appreciate the information. Rarely have inspectors been so helpful"
- Engineer – "It is so nice to always have someone willing to help and answer questions on the other end of the phone."
- 25+ year electrical contractor – "...was a wealth of knowledge. Thank you for providing this important training to our employees."

● **Getting Credit For Out Of State Specialty Electrician Training Experience**

The Electrical Program regularly gets requests from applicants, with out of state training experience, seeking to qualify for a Washington specialty electrician examination. Applicants must keep in mind that there are no specialty electrician scopes-of-work that are identical from state to state. It is common that the scope in one state will allow work or training credit that is prohibited in another state, even when the name of the specialty is very similar. Candidates must also keep in mind that any experience gained in another state must have been gained in compliance with that state's law. When scopes are different, it is not uncommon for the candidate to only get partial credit for the experience gained in the other state.

**Safety Tip of the Month!**

- Look around you and avoid any close encounter with an overhead utility distribution line. Death or serious injury is the outcome if you get too close to a utility line.

For instance, both Washington and Oregon have “sign” specialty certificates. Oregon rules allow sign apprentices to gain credit for work done inside the contractors shop. Washington rules do not allow for shop credit in any specialty, so sign candidates, with Oregon experience, seeking to qualify for the Washington sign electrician examination cannot receive training credit for their shop time in Oregon. The candidate must document the training received that directly relates to and is allowed by the Washington scope of work. It is up to the candidate to provide verifiable documentation that will support the request for hours when scopes-of-work are different.

● **Stakeholder Meetings**

Stakeholder meetings will begin this month. Check the schedule and do your best to attend a meeting in your area. Attending stakeholder meetings gives you an opportunity to get your questions answered and give the program your input. The program will be conducting stakeholder meetings beginning this fall. Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 in the following locations:

<b>October 4th – Spokane</b> , Labor and Industries, 901 N Monroe Street	<b>October 18<sup>th</sup> – Mount Vernon</b> , Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bay View-Edison Rd
<b>October 5th – Kennewick</b> , Benton PUD Auditorium, 2721 W 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	<b>October 19<sup>th</sup> – Everett</b> , Snohomish County PUD Auditorium, 2320 California St
<b>October 6th – Yakima</b> , Pacific Power Auditorium, 500 Keys Road	<b>November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tukwila</b> , Labor and Industries, 12806 Gateway Dr S

● **Sign Grounding and Bonding - Exception**

L&I’s Electrical Inspectors will allow an exception to 2008 NEC 600.7(B)(1). Section (B)(1) was changed in 2008 to say, “Metal parts and equipment of signs and outline lighting shall be bonded together and to the associated transformer or power-supply equipment grounding conductor of the branch circuit or feeder supplying the sign or outline lighting system and shall meet the requirements of 250.90.” The load side wiring of light emitting diode (LED) signs is usually wired with a Class 2 cable that does not provide a bonding path. 2008 NEC 725.2 demonstrates that due to its power limitations, a Class 2 circuit is considered inherently safe from a fire initiation standpoint and provides acceptable protection from electric shock.

The NFPA determined that an exception to that requirement can be made. Remote metal parts of a section sign or outline lighting system only supplied by a remote Class 2 power supply that is listed or is a recognized component in a listed sign or outline lighting is not required to be bonded to an equipment grounding conductor. This exception eliminates a potential conflict between 2008 NEC 600.7(B)(1) and Article 725 and aligns the department’s requirements with those of the NEC.

● **Electrical Board Recruitment – Applications Due Before December 1, 2011**

We have been advertising for applicants to fill the one Electrical Board position– Telecommunications Utility representative, but have received no applications. Filling this position on the Electrical Board is important and will ensure the industry is represented.

The Governor is seeking applicants for this position. Candidates should work for and represent telecommunications utilities in Washington. The term will expire on July 7, 2014.

Applications should be submitted to the Governor. Supporting recommendations and information should also be mailed to the Governor’s office. Board information and applications are available on the Governor’s website at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/default.asp>

● **Answer to This Month’s Question of the Month: A), B), C), and D) – NEC 358.12**