

THE WIRE

*Published by
The Electrical Clearing House of Louisville*

P.O. Box 2085
Clarksville, IN 47129
www.echlky.com

August 2026

Editors' Notes

As mentioned in the July "Wire" we are attempting to send the "Wire" out monthly to keep our members informed of the any new updates from the State capitol. The newsletter will also have some safety tips and updates that may help you on everyday installations.

In this issue we have included a letter from the Kentucky Department of Code & Regulations concerning the "State - mandated electrical code updates (that) take effect July 15, 2026". (Page 7)

And a notice for registration for the 2026 Safety Connection, presented by the Kentucky Public Service Commission & Kentucky 811. (Page 8)

The "Wire" needs your help. As many of you know, The Metro Louisville Electrical Code Enforcement Department is short of Electrical Inspectors due to retirement and some departures. We have not been able to get any reports for common or specific code violations that the inspectors encounter on their jobsites visits. It would be of great help if you would let us know what violations you are encountering on your projects. We will not publish who is giving the information, but will only highlight the violation itself and give the code article as reference.

If you want to see other information in the "Wire", please let us know.

September 14, 2026 Code Program

***Sign-in 6:30 P.M. - Program at 7:00 P.M.
ELKS LODGE # 8 - 2824 KLONDIKE LN***

The code program for September will be Steve & Dennis continuing the presentation of the 47 Code Questions that were started earlier this year before the summer break. Answers and discussion will continue at the September meeting starting at question 24. The 47 Code Questions are available at echlky.com on the Newsletter tab. The yearly dues (\$60.00) will be due in September. The membership form for renewal is attached to this newsletter and will also be included in the September "Wire".

Our General Membership meetings are held at the Elks Lodge located at 2824 Klondike Lane. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with sign-ins beginning at 6:30 pm.

Stay Alert! Work Smart & Stay Informed!

News from Frankfort

As mentioned in last month's "Wire", the Department of Housing, Building, and Construction (DHBC) had an Advisory Committee on Tuesday June 30, 2026. The Commissioner, Max Fuller, reported that the 2026 NEC Task Force had recommended adopting the 2026 National Electrical Code with a few sections having delayed enforcement.

As a result of this recommendation, the DBHC has decided to move forward with the adoption process. This process will be in conjunction with the updating of the State Building Code. If there is no opposition, the best-case scenario is the 2026 NEC would go into effect in late 2027. I will talk more about this at our September 14th General Membership meeting.

See you at the September meeting.

Code Corner

NEC Article 110: How well do you understand the general requirements?

Article 110 of the National Electrical Code covers the general requirements for the examination, approval, installation and use of electrical equipment, plus the spaces around it. These requirements apply to all installations, except as amended elsewhere in the code.

• Instructions

You must install equipment per manufacturer's instructions [see Section 110.3(B)]. But what if the manufacturer's instructions conflict with the NEC? A manufacturer's installation instructions cannot conflict with the NEC requirements. The instructions can exceed the NEC (where specified by the manufacturer), but you can never reduce the code requirements.

• Ratings

Circuit breakers and fuses must have an interrupting rating at least as great as the available fault current at the line terminals of the equipment (110.9). Equipment must have a short-circuit current rating of at least that of the available fault current (110.10).

• Physical protection

Equipment must not be subjected to corrosive gases, fumes, vapors, liquids or other substances that can have a deteriorating effect on conductors and equipment.

Equipment that is not identified for outdoor use or is identified for indoor use or installation in NEMA enclosure types 1, 2, 5, 12, 12K or 13 must be protected against the weather during construction.

In locations where electrical equipment is likely to be exposed to physical damage, enclosures or guards must be arranged and strong enough to prevent damage [110.27(B)].

• Mechanical execution

The NEC requires you to install electrical equipment in a professional and skillful manner (110.12). This is vague as stated, and

aside from providing a few minor specifics (e.g., don't leave unused openings, avoid internal contamination by foreign material, firmly secure to the surface), the NEC doesn't go into further detail.

The basic idea of good workmanship is that finished work should look like someone did the job with pride and a sense of professionalism. Neatness, precision and attention to detail are some of the key characteristics. Traditionally, a journeyman passes this knowledge on to an apprentice—thus the phrase “a journeyman's job” to describe good workmanship. However, since that knowledge can be incomplete, the NECA 1 Standard (also known as NEIS-1, Standard for Good Workmanship) is a must-have for meeting the good workmanship requirement.

• Electrical connections

Conductor terminals and splicing connectors must be identified, installed and used for the conductor material (copper, aluminum or copper-clad aluminum) per the manufacturer's instructions [110.3(B)].

- o Conductor connections to terminals must be mechanically secure using pressure connectors [110.14(A)].

- o A terminal is suitable for only one conductor, unless the terminal is identified for more than one conductor.

- o Any device used to splice conductors must be identified for the purpose [110.14(B)].

- o All splices, joints and free ends of conductors must be covered with an insulation equivalent to that of the conductors or an identified insulating device. The free ends of conductors must be insulated to prevent any exposed end from touching energized parts.

When terminating conductors, tighten per the torque values indicated on the equipment or in the instructions. Tightening beyond the indicated value will create a weaker connection and may cause excessive heating of connectors or equipment terminals.

In the absence of manufacturers' torque requirements for torque values, see Annex I or UL Standard 486A-486B, Standard for Safety—Wire Connectors.

Code Corner

NEC Article 110

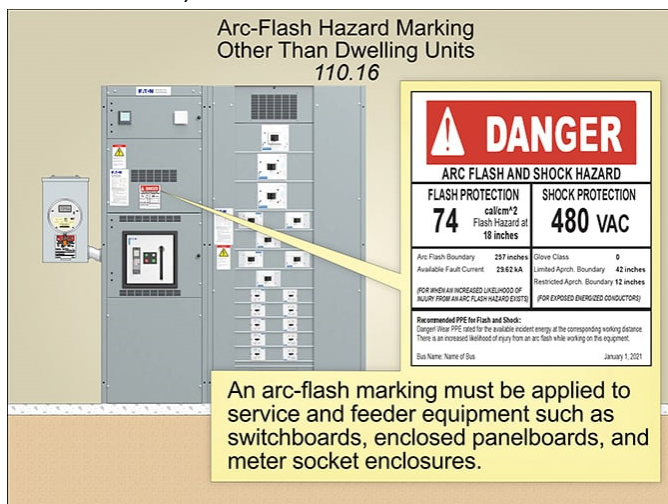
(Continued from Page 2)

• Markings

Field markings cannot be handwritten. They must be permanently affixed to the equipment and durable enough to withstand the environment (110.21).

In other than dwelling units:

- A permanent arc-flash marking must be applied to service and feeder equipment such as switchboards, enclosed panelboards and meter socket enclosures (110.16).
- Each disconnect must be marked to indicate its purpose unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident [110.22 (A)].
- The disconnect marking must include the identification and location of the circuit source unless the identification and location of the circuit source are evident. (This also applies to dwellings with more than two units.)



Service disconnects must be field-marked per NEC 110.21(B) with the available fault current on the line side of the service disconnect and with the date the fault current calculation was performed [110.24(A)]. The available fault current calculation must be documented and available to those who are authorized to design, install, inspect, maintain or operate the system.

When modifications to the electrical system affect the available fault current at the service, the available fault current must be recalculated to ensure the service equipment ratings are sufficient. The required field markings in 110.24(A) must be adjusted to reflect the new level of available fault current [110.24(B)].

• Working space

Access to and egress from working space must permit the safe operation and maintenance of equipment (110.26).

Open equipment doors cannot impede access to, or egress from, the working space. Access or egress to working space is considered impeded if one or more simultaneously opened equipment doors restrict working space access to less than 24 inches wide and 6½ feet high when such doors are opened 90 degrees.

Equipment likely to be examined or worked on while energized must have working space provided per 110.26(A)(1), (2), (3) and (4). For example, the depth of working space cannot be less than the distances in Table 110.26(A)(1). The depth of the working space must be measured from the enclosure front cover.

Where equipment is likely to be examined or worked on while energized and is above a suspended ceiling or crawl space, all the conditions of 110.26(A)(4) apply. For example, the working space must permit equipment doors to open 90 degrees. At least one entrance is required to give access to and egress from the working space [110.24(C)(1)]. For equipment containing over-current protection devices, switching devices or control devices, an entrance to and egress from the required working space must be at least 24 inches wide and 6½ feet high at each end of the working space [110.24(C)(1)]. This requirement applies to either of the following:

- 1) Where feeder equipment is rated 1,200A or more and is more than 6 feet wide
- 2) Where the building disconnect [225.33(A)] or the service disconnect [230.71(B)] has a combined ampere rating of 1,200A or more, and the combined width is over 6 feet

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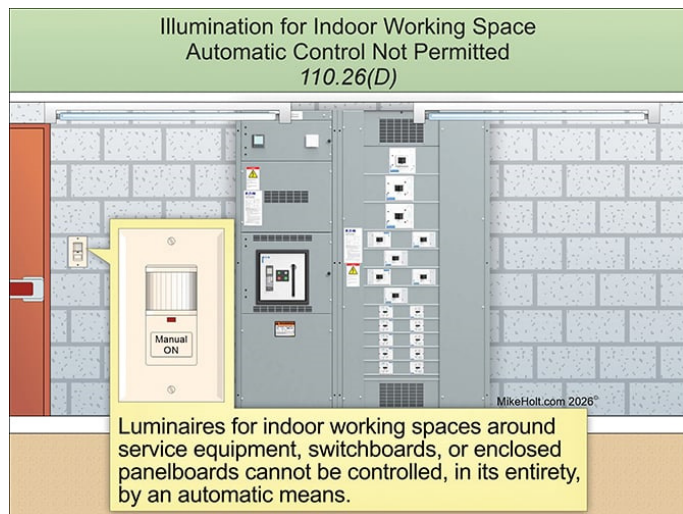
Code Corner**NEC Article 110***(Continued from Page 3)*

A single entrance for access to and egress from the required working space is permitted if either:

- The location permits continuous and unobstructed egress, or
- The required working space depth is doubled, and the equipment is no closer than the minimum distance required by Section 110.26(A)(1).

Where equipment rated 800A or more contains overcurrent protection devices, switching devices or control devices, and there are personnel doors intended for entrance to and egress from the working space less than 25 feet from the nearest edge of the working space, the doors must open at least 90 degrees in the direction of egress.

They also must be equipped with listed panic or fire exit hardware [110.26(C)(3)].

**• Illumination**

Illumination is required for indoor working spaces about service equipment, switchboards or enclosed panelboards [110.24(D)]. This illumination cannot be totally controlled by automatic means.

• Dedicated space

Service equipment, switchboards and enclosed panelboards must have dedicated electrical equipment space and be protected from damage [110.26(E)].

For indoor equipment, this space must comply with 110.26(E)(1)(1)(a) through (d). For example, sprinkler piping is not permitted within the dedicated space.

For outdoor equipment, this space must comply with 110.24(E)(2)(1)(a) through (c).

For example, it must be protected from accidental contact by unauthorized personnel and vehicular traffic.

• Avoiding general mistakes

We have covered most, but not all, of the general requirements. While Article 110 can seem like it presents an overwhelming amount of detail, the requirements boil down to using the right equipment, installing it with good workmanship, allowing sufficient working space and applying some common sense.

Over time, the gist of the general requirements becomes second nature. The upside of this is that you can almost autopilot the general requirements. The downside is that, eventually, running on autopilot may leave a trail of code violations behind you.

To get the details consistently right, it is important to periodically review the NEC's general requirements rather than relying on memory.

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Mike Holt is a National Electrical Code expert, author and educator with more than 50 years of experience in the electrical industry. He started his career as an apprentice and became a master electrician, electrical inspector, contractor, instructor and publisher. He has written hundreds of electrical training books used nationwide through **MikeHolt.com**. He can be reached at **Mike@MikeHolt.com**.

LG&E NEWS**National 811 Day is August 11**

With August 11 approaching, it is the perfect time to mark your calendar and commit to safe digging practices. Whether you are a homeowner or a professional contractor, contacting 811 before you begin any outdoor project is the law. And it's free!

- **Contact 811 First:** Always call 811 or visit Kentucky811.org at least two business days before you dig to have your underground utility lines marked.
- **Wait for the Marks:** Do not begin your project until all utilities have provided a positive response and marked the area with flags or paint.
- **Dig With Care:** Always hand-dig within the "tolerance zone," which is the area extending 24 inches on either side of the marked line.
- **Identify Private Lines:** Remember 811 only marks public utility lines. You are responsible for locating private lines –

such as those for invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems or pool heaters – which are not marked by this free service.

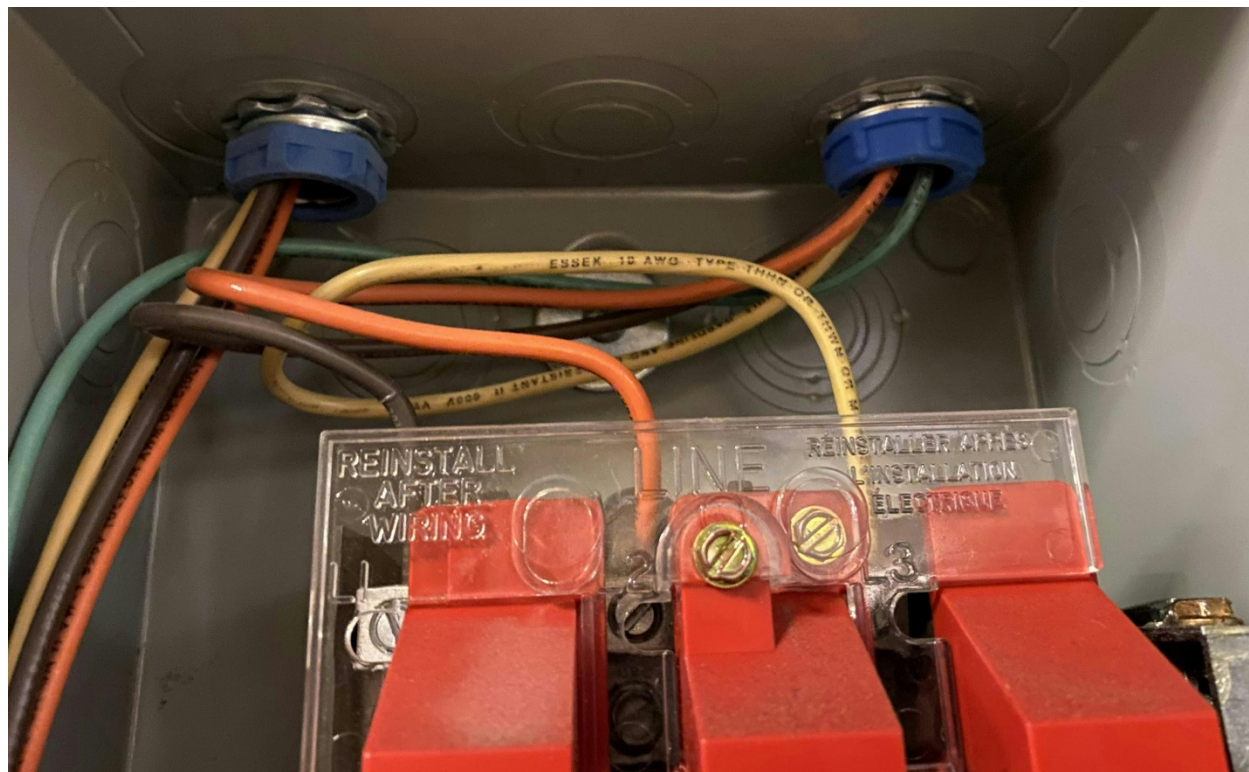
Beautify your yard safely this season. Visit lgeku.com/811 for more details on the steps to keep your family safe.

**Wildfire Safety: Do Your Part**

Wildfire safety is something we should all keep top of mind during camping season. At LG&E, we stay prepared with plans and procedures should wildfires affect our customers or equipment. We use remote sensors to monitor our grid and manage vegetation near lines to prevent accidental starts. If you are hiking trails or sleeping under the stars, keep these safety tips in mind.

- Follow the rules of your campground.
- **DO NOT** build a campfire in hazardous, dry conditions.
- Find out if the campground has an existing fire ring or firepit you can use.
- Have a source of water, a bucket and a shovel nearby at all times.
- Keep the fire small and under control.

What's Wrong Here?



This 3-phase, 480V circuit is operating at 277V to ground. For installations like this, Sec. 250.97 requires the continuity between the metal raceways and metal cabinet to be “ensured by one or more of the methods specified for services in Sec. 250.92(B) except for (B)(1).”

Section 250.92(B)(4) specifies the use of bonding locknuts, bushings, or bonding bushings with bonding jumpers to bond around the remaining rings. Bonding bushings with bonding jumpers would be great here. Using only standard locknuts for bonding and grounding these raceways is not permitted.

IMPORTANT CODE CHANGES

2023 NEC Code Changes Now in Effect

State-mandated electrical code updates take effect July 15, 2026

Effective today, July 15, 2026, the following 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) articles will become mandatory and will be enforced:

- **2023 NEC Article 210.52(C)** – Kitchen countertop and work surface receptacle requirements.
- **2023 NEC Article 230.67** – Surge protection requirements for dwelling unit services.
- **2023 NEC Article 314.27(C)** – Outlet boxes required for ceiling-suspended (paddle) fans.

These requirements are state-mandated code requirements and are not local department policies or additional local amendments. All applicable electrical installations subject to these requirements must comply with the 2023 NEC beginning today.

Contractors are encouraged to review current projects, permit applications, and scheduled inspections to determine whether these requirements apply. If you have questions about how these provisions affect a specific project, please contact the Department of Codes & Regulations Construction Review division before work proceeds.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to electrical safety and compliance.

For questions, contact:

**Department of Codes & Regulations
Construction Review Division
(502) 574-3321**

About Construction Review

Construction Review, a division of Codes & Regulations, is responsible for oversight of construction in Louisville Metro through a review process that includes review of construction plans and issuance of permits and inspections. This process is in place to ensure the safety of citizens and compliance with the Kentucky Building Code and associated codes and ordinances. Construction Review issues building, HVAC/mechanical, electrical, fire detection, fire suppression, moving, tent, and wrecking permits. For more information, visit www.Louisvilleky.gov/Construction.

Registration is Open for the 2026 Safety Connection

October 20–22, 2026 • Downtown Lexington

The wait is over! Registration for the 2026 Safety Connection is now open. Presented by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) and powered by Kentucky 811, the 2026 Safety Connection will be BIGGER, **bolder**, and *even more connected* than ever before.

Register now to claim your spot at Kentucky's biggest and boldest damage prevention event! This is YOUR conference and YOUR connection to the industry's biggest up and coming topics.



Confirmed Topics for This Year's Connection



Powering Opportunity: A Utility's Role - Getting Ready for a Data Center
Steady at the Reins: Communicating Under Pressure
Setting the Pace: Inside the Damage Prevention Institute
More Than the Finish Line: The Human Cost
And that's just the beginning!

More hot industry topics will be featured this October

Want to Attend for FREE? It's Not Too Late!

Apply for a KY Public Service Commission (PSC) Scholarship for your chance to attend for FREE! The application only takes a few minutes to complete. Applications are considered as they are received, so hurry for the best opportunity!

Applicants must work within the excavation, damage prevention, utility or related industries in Kentucky. First-time attendees and applicants will be prioritized.

Recipients will be automatically registered and must make their own travel/lodging accommodations.

After you register or are selected for a scholarship, you'll want to book your stay at the Hilton Lexington/Downtown using our room block link to get a room for \$189/night (taxes and fees not included). Book your stay by September 28 to receive this group discount.

Make connections with the right people in the right place! As a Safety Connection sponsor, you can exhibit your products, services and technology on-site during the conference and network at our exclusive evening events, providing an unparalleled opportunity to get connected and stay connected with the industry professionals most interested in your offerings.

Questions? For questions about the Safety Connection or the scholarship, send an email to safetyconnection@ky811.com.

Follow Kentucky 811 on social media for the latest damage prevention and Safety Connection updates! Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

ECHL

ELECTRICAL CLEARING HOUSE OF LOUISVILLE

Organized in 1912

www.echlky.com

Application for Membership

I hereby make an application for membership into the Electrical Clearing House of Louisvil Date: _____

First Name M.I. Last Name Birth Date: Month / Day / Year

Home Address City State Zip Code

Contact Phone # Email Address

Organization: IEC ☐ ABC ☐ IBEW ☐ NECA ☐ N/A ☐ Other: _____

Member Type: Contractor ☐ Supplier ☐ Inspector ☐ Fire Prevention ☐
Electrician ☐ Utility ☐ Maintenance ☐ Other ☐

Please check all that apply.

License Number: EE: _____ ME _____ CE _____

Place of Employment

Employer Address City State Zip Code

Employer Phone Employer Email Address

I agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Clearing House

Signature

Annual Membership Dues are \$60.00
Payable with application and renewed every September

Make checks payable to:

Electrical Clearing House of Louisville
P.O. Box 2085
Clarksville, Indiana 47129

info@echlky.com