

Electrical Shorts



*Development Services
Electrical Team*

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Are you ready for the new codes?

City of San Antonio Adopts New Codes

As many of you are already aware, we adopted the *2005 National Electrical Code (NEC)* and the revised version of *Chapter 10 of our City Code* which deals with electrical requirements in our City. In addition we also adopted the following new codes for our city.

2006 International Residential Code

2006 International Building Code

2006 International Existing Building Code

2006 International Mechanical Code

2006 Uniform Plumbing Code



We recognize that many of our customers have spent considerable time and money using our existing codes as the models by which to design their buildings and other projects. Because of these concerns, the department recognized a transition period between September 11, 2006 and December 31, 2006 where someone may elect to use all of the above listed codes or use all of the codes that were previously under effect. Our inspectors will verify the city approved plans for indication by the plans examiners on which option was chosen by the customer.

Remember that any project that has been or will be submitted to us during this time frame must have its permits obtained by January 1, 2007. Of course, any project submitted after this time frame will need to comply with all newly adopted codes.

Training Opportunities

City of San Antonio Offers Training

The San Antonio Building Codes Academy (SABCA) is a South/Central Texas regional training academy sponsored by the City of San Antonio Development Services Department. SABCA was established with the goal of bringing high-quality educators and necessary building-related codes training to code officials, design professionals, builders, tradesmen and building owners and managers. SABCA is currently sponsoring training seminars in the fall, winter and spring of each year.

SABCA has scheduled upcoming training seminars for :

January 24th on the [2005 National Electrical Code](#) (IAEI Instructor)

January 25th for the [2006 International Mechanical Code](#) (ICC Instructor)

January 26th for the [2006 Uniform Plumbing Code](#) (IAPMO Instructor)



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Questions / comments: can be directed to Chief Electrical Inspector, Ray Martinez (210) 207-8286 or raymondm@sanantonio.gov

Frequently Asked Question:

Q. Who do I contact about taking electrical examinations?

A. They are currently being administered on behalf of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation by the International Code Council (ICC). More information on dates and procedures involved in registering for examinations can be found by visiting www.iccsafe.org or by contacting TDLR at www.statelicense.state.tx.us.

Safety Tip:

Be sure and inspect all temporary holiday lighting to make sure it is still in good condition and be sure that you use the temporary lighting in the manner in which it was intended and tested.

Remember:

If any new outlets need to be added to your design ideas, a licensed and bonded electrical contractor with permit will be required.

Continuing Education Requirements

New Requirements for Local License Holders

With the recent revisions by the Electrical Supervisory Board to Chapter 10 of the City Code, the amount of continuing education needed to renew local licenses has changed from 24 hours per three period to 4 hours annually. This is designed to match what the State has set out for their license renewals.

Persons wishing to renew local licenses after September 2006 will have to show proof of satisfactorily completing 4 hour minimum code study course for each year of renewal within the 24 month period immediately preceding such renewal.

Example: Someone who comes in to renew a local license in October 2006 must show proof of a minimum of 8 hours total of continuing education; the classes would have to have been taken between October 2004 and October 2006 in order to qualify.

It is important to remember that in order for class hours to count for renewing local licenses, the classes will have to be through a training provider that is recognized and approved by both our Department and the Electrical Supervising Board. It is double the benefit when you can attend a training class such as the one we are sponsoring in January through San Antonio Building Academy (SABCA) that qualifies for both local and state license renewals.

Any questions can be directed to Chief Electrical Inspector Ray Martinez at 210-207-8286 raymondm@sanantonio.gov

Concrete Encased Electrodes

Information Bulletin 131

The Development Services Department (DSD), in accordance with Article 250.50 of the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC), requires that each new building or structure being built to incorporate a concrete encased electrode as part of the grounding electrode system.

As a customer service initiative, DSD has extended the following options to licensed and bonded contractors when installing the concrete encased electrode on new buildings or structures within the City of San Antonio.

Residential - New Construction Only:

Option 1- A minimum of # 4 AWG bare copper conductor may be attached to a 20ft long by ½ piece of reinforcing steel at the footing/beam of the concrete slab and be brought up to the service panel.

Option 2- A minimum of # 4 AWG bare copper conductor 20ft in length may be installed in the footing/beam of the concrete slab. The conductor will need to be extended in length as necessary for bringing it to the service panel.

Option 3- A piece of reinforcing steel, that meets the requirements of option # 1 and has additional length without splice extended up past the sole plate of the structure, can be attached at that point with a minimum # 4 bare copper conductor that is extended to the service panel. (When reinforcing steel is used in this option, that portion extending out of the slab will be required to be identified with the color green)

Commercial - New Construction Only:

Option 1- A minimum of # 4 AWG bare copper conductor may be attached to a 20ft long by ½ piece of reinforcing steel at the footing/beam of the concrete slab and be brought up to the service panel.

Option 2- A minimum of # 4 AWG bare copper conductor 20ft in length may be installed in the footing/beam of the concrete slab. The conductor will need to be extended in length as necessary to be brought to the service panel.

A licensed and bonded electrical contractor with proper permit will be responsible for installing the concrete encased electrode in accordance with Article 250 of the NEC and this Information Bulletin.

The contents of this information bulletin are intended to outline the NEC requirement of installing a concrete encased electrode as part of the electrical grounding system and to outline some options that will assist electrical contractors meet this requirement. Should you have any questions concerning this Information Bulletin please contact the Chief Electrical Inspector at 207-8286 or the Development Service Managers at (210) 207-0148 or (210) 207-0159.

Visit our [Development Services Website](#) to view all of our Information Bulletins.