

## › Electrical Inspections: Vital to Every Community's Safety

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When you drop your kids off at school, fill your car with fuel, or simply walk into your home, do you ever stop to think about the potential hazards that an improper electrical installation might pose for you or your family?

Most of us don't. We rely on qualified electrical professionals to install and inspect electrical installations at schools, gas stations, and homes to verify that ground wire is in place, the GFCI is installed correctly, the conduit is properly supported, and the electrical equipment is installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

It is the electrical inspector who serves as the critical last set of eyes to audit and review those installation safety details.

Have you ever run into a person or organization who just views inspection as a hurdle in the construction process? If so, I suggest you ask a simple question: "When you were in school, did you score 100 percent on every test, every time?" None of us is so good that we do everything 100 percent correctly all the time.

Even with a well qualified electrical contractor and engineer on the job,

the inspector will catch mistakes, misapplications, or other noncompliance items that, once fixed, will enhance the safety and potentially save a life or protect a community from extensive property damage.

Why are electrical inspections such a vital public safety function?

- Inspections can save lives and property
- Inspections mean compliance with laws
- Inspections check for safe products
- Inspections confirm that qualified installers are employed
- No public funding is necessary
- Inspections can lower insurance premiums

The electrical inspection community, through the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), serves a vital role in industry education. IAEI chapters organize educational forums for the industry that include electrical contractors, engineers, inspectors, testing labs, utilities, and manufacturers.

NEMA field representatives play a significant leadership role at IAEI

educational meetings through presentations, answering product installation questions, and providing guidance on the *National Electrical Code*® (NEC) and *International Building Code* requirements. Numerous NEMA member companies are also members of IAEI and serve as important resources of information to the electrical industry.

IAEI has six regional section meetings every fall. The publication of the 2011 NEC by the National Fire Protection Association will coincide with these fall education programs. Each of the educational programs will focus on the changes in the 2011 NEC by bringing together the most comprehensive group of NEC code panel representatives to discuss how these new requirements will be enforced.

Do you find yourself asking how changes in the 2011 NEC will affect you, your customers, business, or design and installation of your next electrical system? If so, I would encourage you to participate in an IAEI section meeting. Join IAEI for industry discussions on how the 2011 NEC changes may change how you do business. For more information, visit [www.iaei.org](http://www.iaei.org). ☎



Photo courtesy of IAEI

### 2010 IAEI SECTION MEETINGS

•	Northwestern	Sept. 12–15	Grove Hotel/Convention Center	Boise, ID
•	Western	Sept. 19–22	Regency Suites	Green Bay, WI
•	Canadian	Sept. 24–26	Horseshoe Valley (T)	Barrie, ON
•	Eastern	Sept. 30–Oct. 3	Resort & Conference Center	Hyannis, MA
•	Southern	Oct. 10–13	Marriott Riverfront	Savannah, GA
•	Southwestern	Oct. 17–21	Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort	Phoenix, AZ

NEMA field representatives' territories are aligned with IAEI regions:

- Joseph Andre (AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA) [joe.andre@nema.org](mailto:joe.andre@nema.org)
- Donald Iverson (WY, CO, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, AR, WI, IL, MI, IN, KY, OH, WV) [don.iverson@nema.org](mailto:don.iverson@nema.org)
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