

COVID-19 Limits on the City of Port Angeles Electrical Inspections

April 8, 2020

COVID-19 electrical inspection information for customers Subject to change.

1. Why are there limits on electrical inspections?

- Together, we are going to get through these challenging times. Before the pandemic, our inspector visited about 5 to 10 worksites everyday – homes, businesses, and construction sites. Now, because of the virus and how easy it can spread, this may pose a greater risk than **not** doing an inspection.
- The Governor’s “[Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#)” order restricts mobility to help prevent the spread of the virus. In general, the order does not allow commercial or residential construction.
- The Governor’s March 25 guidance memo on construction clarifies limits on construction: https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/03.25.20-Construction%20Guidance%20Memo%20%28002%29.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

A summary of how electrical inspections fit in to all this follows below:

2. What kind of electrical inspections can the City of Port Angeles do right now?

- Essential inspections for installations made in essential facility that directly support:
 - Public health – medical, sewer, water, etc.
 - Food chain – farms, crop or food spoilage, food processing, grocery stores, transportation, etc.
 - Human shelter:
 - Inspections for emergency electrical repairs that would cause someone to lose shelter if left undone. Examples: failed heating or cooling systems, damaged or hazardous electrical systems, failed sewer or well systems, storm damage, etc.
 - Inspections required for occupancy related to pending real estate transactions.
- Inspections of energized installations made by those who are not certified electricians. (Potential fire/life safety hazard)

3. What kind of inspections are not essential?

Inspections of elective installations, meaning installations done because it was a good time to do them, or ongoing installations on projects that are not essential according to the Governor’s order. While limits are on, it is not the time to start or continue an elective project.

- Examples of elective installations:
 - Swimming pools and hot tubs; residential remodels and outbuildings; new residential and commercial construction; new electrical services, feeders, or circuits; etc.

4. What to do now for work that requires inspection?

- Submit a request for an electrical inspection for all projects at required by Port Angeles Municipal Code CHAPTER 14.05. If installation is one of the following:
 - Essential installations described in Section 2. Be sure to tell us, using the Governor's directives how your project meets the exceptions for essential installations (be prepared to provide documentation).
 - Elective installations. By making your request, you have met your obligations. Do not conceal anything until it passes inspection. After the Governor lifts his Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, we can resume inspections of these types of installations.
 - Energized Emergency repairs made by property owners (Potential fire/life safety hazards). Include this comment in your request: "Energized emergency repairs made by property owner." By making your request, you have met your obligations. We will contact you and make inspection arrangements.
- All inspections will be conducted virtually.