

**Data from the State of Iowa Fire Incident reporting system shows a 35% reduction in electrical fires since State inspections started in March of 2009.**

**When is an electrical inspection required?**

Generally, an electrical inspection is required on all new electrical installations. Please refer to our document titled **Electrical Permit Requirements** at [iowaelectrical.gov](http://iowaelectrical.gov).

**Are electrical installations on farms exempt from inspections?**

No, All new electrical installations on farms and other agricultural facilities are required to be inspected. However, the farmer is exempt from licensing and can do his own electrical work on any agricultural related buildings on his own property. "A farmer, like the homeowner, may not wire a new home. Iowa Code 103.22(7)

**Can a homeowner do electrical work on their own property?**

Yes, the state law allows homeowners to work on their existing, owner-occupied home and on any residential accessory buildings no more than 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> associated with that home. The residence shall qualify for the Homestead Exemption. The homeowner does not need to be licensed but may not wire a new home. Iowa Code 103.22(7)

**Do I have to wait for the electrical inspection before I energize the installation?**

No, circuits may be energized by the installer prior to inspection. The installer shall follow normal procedures to request the inspection and schedule it with the electrical inspector at their convenience. Iowa Code 103.31(1)

**Does a service need to be inspected before the utility can hook it up?**

Yes, no electrical installation shall be newly connected or reconnected for use until the electrical inspector has notified the utility that the installation has been approved.. Iowa Code 103.28(1)

**What if my electrical service needs emergency hookup due to weather, such as wind or ice?**

Utilities are authorized to reconnect the electrical service after it has been rebuilt in an emergency situation. Normal permit and inspection procedures shall follow at the installer's earliest convenience. Iowa Code 103.22(14)

**What about routine maintenance, such as replacing a defective fan motor?**

State inspections do not apply to routine maintenance which is defined as "the repair or replacement of existing electrical equipment of the same size and type for which no changes in wiring are made." Iowa Code 103.1(16), 103.24(3)

**Once an electrical permit is applied for, does all the electrical work on the property have to be brought up to the current electrical code?**

No, any electrical work installed previous to

March 2009 and properly maintained shall be allowed to remain. However, if the inspector observes an existing installation that is determined to constitute an electrical hazard, a repair will be required. Iowa Code 103.23(4)

**How do I go about applying for an electrical permit?**

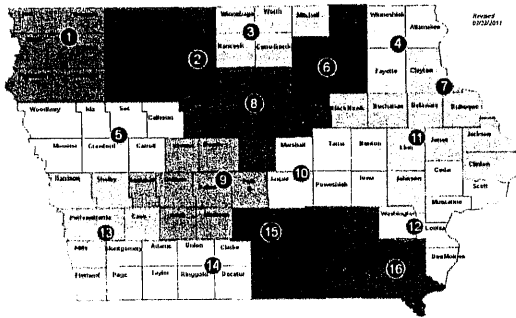
The application is available at [iowaelectrical.gov](http://iowaelectrical.gov). Here you apply for the permit, pay the associated fees with your credit card, and request an inspection on any permit in your account. From here, you can also access our website which provides more information about our program. A manual paper form is also available here for those not familiar with the internet. Those without internet availability can contact their inspector for a copy of the permit application

**Are Inspectors available for technical questions?**

Inspectors are happy to answer any specific questions concerning your installation. It benefits everyone involved to have the job correct on the initial inspection.

**Where can I find contact information for my inspector?**

The website, [iowaelectrical.gov](http://iowaelectrical.gov), has interactive inspector maps to assist you in finding the contact information for the inspector assigned to your area. Otherwise, you may call the office at (515) 725-6147 and the office personnel will give you the information you need.



Full color map available at our website:  
[iowaelectrical.gov](http://iowaelectrical.gov)

**Chief Electrical Inspector**  
**Patrick Merrick - (515) 725-6137**

- #1 - Michael Decker—(712) 240-0903
- #2 - Dan Morpheu—(515) 210-0263
- #3 - Tony Servantez—(641) 425-5113
- #4 - Vern Roe—(563) 451-7029
- #5 - Craig Harvey—(712) 371-3058
- #6 - Kyle Wedeking—(641) 228-0180
- #7 - Jeremiah Kress—(563) 451-3710
- #8 - Mark Miller—(515) 210-0832
- #9 - Steve Nisser—(515) 210-7294
- #10 - Tim Shaw—(515) 205-8815
- #11 - Greg Grant—(319) 350-2404
- #12 - Eric Rowley—(319) 572-3545
- #13 - Sheryl Musgrove—(712) 327-8644
- #14 - Chris Neuenkirk—(641) 451-5118
- #15 - Brad Hearn—(515) 238-0515
- #16 - Randy Tuttle—(319) 759-0700

Iowa Department of Public Safety  
 215 East 7th Street  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
 (515) 725-6147



## Contact Us

### Licensing and Continued Education:

Phone: 515-725-6147  
 Toll Free (in-state only): 1-866-923-1082  
 Fax: 515-725-6151  
 E-mail: [elecinfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:elecinfo@dps.state.ia.us)

### Permits & Inspections:

Phone: 515-725-6147  
 Fax: 515-725-6151  
 E-mail: [einspinfo@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:einspinfo@dps.state.ia.us)

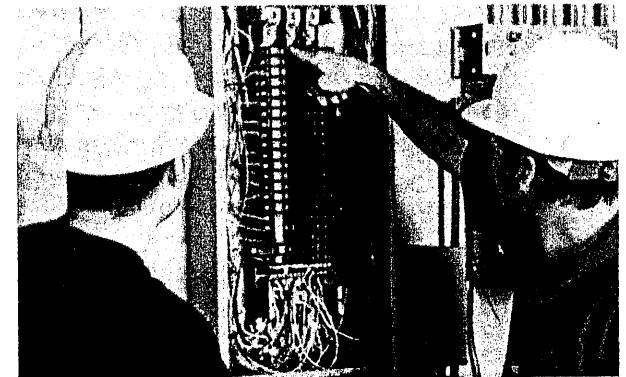
Website: [iowaelectrical.gov](http://iowaelectrical.gov)

Iowa Department of Public Safety  
 215 East 7th Street  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
 (515) 725-6147

July 21 2011



# State Electrical Inspections



## Frequently Asked Questions

Iowa Department of Public Safety  
 215 East 7th Street  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
 (515) 725-6147