



City of Searcy
Code Enforcement
300 West Arch Ave.
501-279-1085

SEARCY ELECTRICAL CODE - 2008

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101: PURPOSE OF CODE

The purpose of this code is the safeguarding of persons and property from electrical dangers and hazards arising from the use of electricity. It covers electrical conductors and equipment installed in private and public buildings and other premises, inside and outside.

201: PERMIT-REQUIRED: APPLICATION; CONTENTS; ACTION BY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; ISSUANCE

(a) Any party desiring to install or repair interior wiring or other apparatus for the use of electrical energy in the City, shall, before commencing or doing any work, file an application in writing for a permit with the City, which application shall describe, in detail, the material and apparatus to be used, including copies of

the plans and specifications of the proposed work, as required and the street address of location where the work is to be done, and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as hereinafter described. Forms for making such application shall be furnished by the City through the City Code Enforcement Department.

(b) All such applications shall be reviewed and authorized by a Code Enforcement Officer if found by him to conform to the requirements hereof.

(c) Applications shall be completed for all one and two family dwellings for new or for the modification of existing electrical work. If plans are available, they must be submitted with the application.

(d) Applications shall be completed for all proposed electrical wiring, other than one and two family dwellings for the new or modification of existing electrical work. Plans may be submitted with the application, provided, however, plans are required for any electrical system, both new and/or existing, that exceeds a 600 amp capacity service entrance. Such plans, as a minimum, must show service entrance, feeders and branch circuits. The appropriate Code Enforcement Officer can require design plans and information on existing systems as deemed necessary.

(e) Any person performing or attempting to perform any electrical work within the City without the required permit shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as hereinafter provided. No permit shall be required or necessary for the making of minor repairs.

(f) Permits under this code may be issued only to persons duly licensed by the state of Arkansas.

(g) Permits under this ordinance can and will be issued to a homeowner working on the dwelling he lives in, provided that all electrical work be inspected and comply with this code.

202: PERMIT REQUIRED: TEMPORARY METERS AND POWER PANELS

(a) All temporary power meters and panels must be assembled by an Arkansas licensed electrician and inspected by a Code Enforcement Officer.

(b) Previously assembled temporary meter-panel combinations and previously inspected as required by (a) above can be erected by other than licensed electrician.

(c) All temporary meter-panel combination must comply with the currently enforced National Electric Code and have at least one properly installed ground rod.

(d) All temporary meter panels must meet the requirements of the electric utility serving the area.

(e) All temporary meter-panels must have been issued a temporary meter-panel permit and be inspected by a City of Searcy Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer must label the installation acceptable before the servicing electric utility can connect to it.

203: NEW PERMIT REQUIRED FOR ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL PLANS

No alterations or additions shall be made in any electrical installations without first notifying the Searcy Code Enforcement Department, procuring a permit for such work, submitting, if required, the plans and specifications covering the proposed work, and paying the fees as specified by the current City of Searcy Code Enforcement fee ordinance. If it is desired to increase the work specified for in the original permit, such increase shall be considered as an addition to the original installation and a permit procured, for which a fee shall be paid as an addition. Any addition or extension to a previously issued permit must be described in detail.

301: INSPECTIONS

(a) All electrical work for which permits are required, by this and other ordinances shall be inspected at the following stages.

1. Initial Inspection (Rough-In) is to be preformed after boxes, wire ways and other components are exposed and not concealed. No component shall be concealed from view until inspected by the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer, who shall have a 2 work day notice (total of 16 work week regular hours).
2. Intermediate Inspection (Trim Out) is to be performed after all components are in place but panels and boxes still not covered. Adequate notice (as stated above) must be given.
3. Final Inspection (Final) is to be preformed when all electrical system components are in place and ready to be energized.

4. Any excessive inspection needed, in the opinion of the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer, shall be billed and collected before a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued.
5. All modular buildings installed in the City of Searcy must have certification submitted that all electrical wiring complied with the current National Electrical Code at the time of construction. The certification must be by a licensed engineer or in Inspector certified by a nationally recognized organization. If necessary the Searcy Code Enforcement may require that the electrical wiring be exposed or additional test be preformed.

(b) Any electric utility serving the City of Searcy shall not connect any temporary or permanent service unless a signed tag has been attached by the proper Code Enforcement Officer. In the event an existing electric service is to be increased in size, and has **no** inspection tag attached, it will be the duty of the electric utility serving the area, in the City of Searcy, to report this to the Searcy Code Enforcement Department before connecting the increased electric service. The above applies to all above referenced electric services in the City of Searcy.

302: CORRECTION OF DEFECTS

Whenever any person has obtained a permit to install or to do any electrical work and whenever an inspection of such work by the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer discloses that such work was not done in accordance with the National Electrical Code or is not in conformity with the provisions of this code, it shall be the duty of the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer to serve notice upon such permit holder, pointing out the defects in such work or installation and such permit holder shall proceed immediately to correct such defects and to make the work and materials conform to the provisions of this ordinance and the National Electrical code for electrical wiring and apparatus.

In the event such permit holder neglects or refuses to promptly comply with the Searcy Code and the National Electrical Code, the Code Enforcement Officer shall not issue any more permits to the said offending permit holder until corrections are made and the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer has approved.

303: REINSPECTIONS; NOTICE TO PUT IN SAFE CONDITION; EXISTING BUILDING

The appropriate Code Enforcement Officer is hereby empowered to inspect or re-inspect all interior and exterior electrical facilities, in any structure within the corporate limits of the City, and when found to be unsafe, he shall notify the person owning or using the same, to place it in a safe condition within forty-eight (48) hours. Any person failing to comply with such shall be punished as hereinafter provided.

401: INSPECTION FEES

- (a) Before beginning any electrical work within the area of jurisdiction of the City of Searcy, the person installing same shall make application for the required permits and pay all fees for said permit. A double inspection fee shall be assessed to any party commencing any electrical work prior to making application for the required inspections and the payment of all fees for said inspections.
- (b) The application for electrical permit shall be accompanied by fees in accordance with the appropriate schedule as outlined in the appropriate ordinance.

501: CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION: REQUIREMENTS

No certificate of inspection shall be issued unless the electric light, power and heating installations are in strict conformity with the provision of this code.

601: NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE ADOPTED

There is hereby adopted by the City Council of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, for the purpose of the practical safeguarding of persons, buildings, and their contents from hazards arising from the use of electricity, the National Electrical Code as currently adopted by the state of Arkansas thereof, and the whole thereof, of which not less than one (1) copy is filed in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Searcy, Arkansas, and two (2) other copies at locations designated by the City Clerk. The same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein and from the date of which this section shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall govern all electrical equipment, other than authorized electric, communication and cable utilities, installed and contained within the corporate limits of the City of Searcy, Arkansas.

602: LOCAL EXCEPTIONS TO NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

The following rules to govern local conditions shall be exceptions to the provisions of the National Electrical Code:

(a) All electrical work being installed or any portion being modified in any commercial, industrial or institutional structure and/or installation shall be limited to utilize:

1. Rigid Metal Conduit (Type RMC)
2. Intermediate Metal Conduit (Type IMC)
3. Electrical Metallic Tubing (Type EMT)
4. Flexible Metal Conduit (Type FMC)
5. Rigid PVC Conduit (Type PVC)
6. Surface Metal Raceways
7. MC Cable---(MC Cable can be used in all NEC allowed uses listed, except it cannot be used in any structure that has an assembly area (as defined in the current Arkansas Building Code)that exceeds 2000 square feet floor area.

All other electrical wiring methods and materials can be utilized in other structures if allowed by the current NEC and listed by acceptable testing laboratories such as UL or ETL.

All electrical systems and wiring must comply with the current adopted NEC.

Other than the wiring systems listed above can be utilized if written acceptance by the City of Searcy Code Enforcement Office is received.

All new and modified electrical systems and wiring must comply with the current NEC.

(b) All Wireways shall have a properly sized grounding wire included and sized as per the currently adopted National Electrical Code.

(c) No circuit shall be wired with less than No. 12 copper wire, except in dwellings,

No. 14 copper wire may be used in lighting circuits and bedroom circuits, provided

The entire circuit is No. 14 wire and is be protected with a 15 amp overcurrent

device.

- (d) Minimum size of aluminum wire that can be used is No. 4 stranded.
- (e) No meter shall be disconnected from line by anyone other than those securing permission to do so from the utility company supplying power.
- (f) No residential service entrance shall have an ampacity of less 100 amp, unless special permission is secured from the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer.
- (g) Service masts shall be not less than two (2") inch rigid metal conduit.
- (h) The grounding electrode system shall be installed as per the National Electrical Code currently adopted by the State of Arkansas with the following clarifications or exceptions:
 - 1. All exposed grounding electrode conductors, shall be protected by non-metallic conduit when exposed within six (6) feet of ground level or finished floor level. The non-metallic conduit shall be securely attached to the surface.
- (i) The National Electrical Code shall be followed in all cases where this ordinance does not apply.
- (j) All work shall be done in a work-man-like manner.
- (k) The service entrance disconnect means shall be installed outside, not concealed, and immediately adjacent to the utility meter. If the service entrance ampacity is eight hundred (800) amps or larger, locating the service entrance disconnecting equipment inside will be acceptable provided:
 - 1. Approval of the Code Enforcement Department is given.
 - 2. The entire electrical system, beyond the main distribution panel, can be de-energized by operation of one externally mounted switch.
 - 3. The required externally mounted switch shall be located and protected in conditions acceptable to the Searcy Fire Department.

- (l) There shall be no more than ten (10) duplex receptacles or ten (10) lights per 20 amp circuit. There shall be no more than eight (8) receptacles or eight (8) lights per 15 amp circuit.
- (m) The following rule shall apply to all assembly, commercial, educational, Industrial, institutional, and residential buildings with seven (7) or more dwelling units. The definition of the building classification is as defined in the Searcy Zoning Code, the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code and the National Electrical Code
 - 1. No electrical permit will be issued until the electrical contractor has furnished the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer with plans on any electrical service rated over 400 amps. On any electric service exceeding 600 amps, the electrical plans shall be designed by an engineer licensed in the State of Arkansas. The submitted electrical plans must bear the Arkansas stamp of the engineer.
- (n) No more than one (1) conductor shall be in each lug space whether on a breaker, ground bar or neutral bar when any are located in a load center, panel board or switchboard.
- (p) All junction boxes of wiring systems shall be in an accessible location and shall have no more than one extension ring.
- (q) All circuits sized for ampacity of 100 or less shall be sized from the 60 degree C. column of table 310-16, unless a variance has prior approval from the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer.
- (r) A separate neutral conductor shall be returned to the panel for each circuit breaker whether one (1), two (2), or three (3) pole. An exception will be made for any circuit where no 120 volt or 277 volt load is connected or planned.
- (s) All receptacles supplied and fed through and/or from a ground-fault circuit-interrupter shall be permanently marked “GFCI Protected” in a legible color and fashion.

- (t) All disconnection means shall be legibly marked by a directory or other means, as required by the National Electrical Code.

701: INTERIOR WIRING CONSTRUED; OUTSIDE WIRING REGULATED

Interior wiring and other apparatus, as referred to in this ordinance, shall be construed to mean all wiring done within the City except such outside wiring on poles, transmissions lines, conduits or in substations, up to the customer's measuring device, done by any public power, telephone or cable television service. Wherever applicable, the rules and regulations herein provided for interior wiring shall apply to outside wiring and the appropriate Code Enforcement Officer is empowered to inspect all wiring outside of building for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the code for the public safety.

Permits shall be procured for outside wiring the same as interior wiring and the fees hereinafter provided shall be charged, paid and collected.

801: SALE OF UNSAFE APPLIANCES

It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor punishable as provided in this code for any person in the city to sell or offer for sale any electrical appliances, devices or materials, which when used, are dangerous to life, health or property.

901: LIABILITY CONSTRUED

This code shall not be construed to affect the responsibility or liability of any person owning, operating, controlling or installing material devices, appliances or equipment for damages to persons or property caused by any defects therein nor shall the City be held to assume any such liability by reason of the approval of any material, devices, appliance or equipment authorized herein.

1001: PENALTIES

- (a) Any person or entity who shall do or fail to do any act contrary to the requirements of this code shall be guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. The fine upon conviction shall be in an amount not exceeding \$1,000.00.

(b) The Code Enforcement Officer is empowered to direct the electric utility serving Searcy to disconnect electric service when he finds that this code is not being complied with fully and to keep such service cut off until this code has been complied with.

(c) The Code Enforcement Officer is empowered and directed to notify in writing any party furnishing electrical power to any party violating this code, that the violation therein described exists and that unless the violation cease within forty-eight (48) hours of delivery of such notices, the electrical service must be, by the furnisher of such electrical service cut off and denied to such party, until such time as the violation shall have ceased.

Copies of ordinances may be obtained by contacting City Hall at 501-268-2483.