



# DIVISION OF INDUSTRY SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | SUMMER 2025

## 2% Fire Dues Program Success

For the first time in Sarah Brown's 8 years of fire dues administration, all 2,285 fire departments and municipality associations completed their self-certification. Significant compliance improvements were observed compared to 2024, with expectations for even better results in 2026. This is a huge accomplishment! Check out the stats and results below.

### 2% Self-Certifications

- Non-Compliant Fire Chiefs: 6 Fire Chiefs self-certified as not compliant due to incomplete fire inspections in 2024.
- Non-Compliant Municipality Clerks: 2 municipal clerks self-certified their fire departments as non-compliant with Wis. Stat. 101.575 and SPS 314. These clerks were associated with two of the six non-compliant fire departments mentioned above.

### Fire Dues Audits Results (2025)

- 213 fire dues audits were completed by DIS's 4 Fire Prevention Coordinators.
- 185 fire departments passed their audit.
- 28 fire departments failed their audit.
- 4 fire departments and their associated municipalities will not receive fire dues payment in 2025 due to multiple audit failures.

### Self-Certification Obtains Additional Information

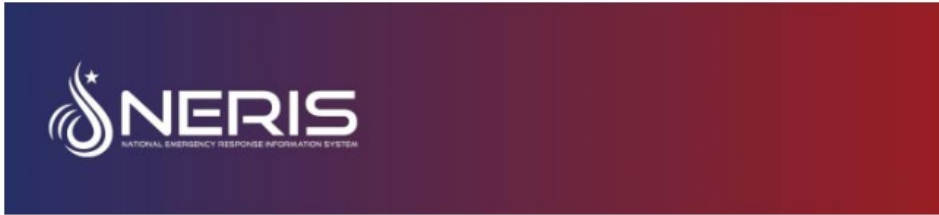
| Fire Departments                         | Firefighters                                |
|--|---|
| Career Fire Departments: <b>4</b>        | Career Firefighters: <b>5,020</b>           |
| Combination Fire Departments: <b>128</b> | Unpaid Volunteer Firefighters: <b>7,908</b> |
| Volunteer Fire Departments: <b>622</b>   | Paid Volunteer Firefighters: <b>12,298</b>  |

### Fire Inspection Data

- Fire Inspections Conducted: 317,662
- Violations Found: 97,730
- Corrections Made: 110,103 (includes corrections from previous inspections)

# Transitioning From NFIRS to NERIS

Wisconsin's Fire Prevention/Safety & Health Program will assist fire departments in the migration from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS).



## NERIS Rollout in Wisconsin

- NERIS is being rolled out nationwide, by region.
- Most Wisconsin fire departments are scheduled to begin onboarding to NERIS in **December 2025**.
- Approximately 40 fire departments in Wisconsin have already participated in onboarding, early adoption, and testing of NERIS.

## Preparation and Resources

- The DSPS [Fire Prevention webpage](#) has been updated to help fire chiefs and other personnel prepare for this transition. Use the new NERIS option in the dropdown menu:

NERIS - NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION SYSTEM



## Recommended NERIS Resources

- [FSRI \(Fire Safety Research Institute\)](#) - For the latest progress on NERIS.
- [USFA \(U.S. Fire Administration\)](#) - Also for the latest progress on NERIS.
- [NERIS Mailing List](#) - Subscribing is highly encouraged for updates.

## Additional Information

Read the [NERIS Onboarding Information](#).

Visit the [NERIS FAQs](#).

## SUBSCRIBE TO DIS NEWS

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

[Manage your email subscriptions](#)

PAST WEBINARS AND NEWSLETTERS

[Latest Quarterly Webinar](#)

[Past Quarterly Newsletters](#)

UPCOMING TOPICS

Help improve the quarterly calls and newsletters by taking the survey linked below.

[Survey for Future Topics](#)

## DIS PROGRAM INFO

DIS PROGRAMS

[See the list of DIS program webpages](#)

DIS TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

Each program maintains separate communication inboxes.

Find these email addresses on the [DSPS Trades Contact page](#).

CREDENTIAL LOOK-UP

All credentials should now be searched using the NEW Credential Look-Up Tool

[license.wi.gov/s/license-lookup](https://license.wi.gov/s/license-lookup)

## ESLA CORNER

USER GUIDE AND HELP PAGE

[dsps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx](https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/eSLAResources.aspx)



# Municipalities and Commercial Electrical Inspectors

With the current Commercial Electrical code that went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, commercial electrical projects began requiring permitting and inspections by a Wisconsin credentialed Commercial Electrical Inspector. However, the adopted code allows municipalities to request the responsibility of performing commercial electrical permitting and inspections for the installations identified under [SPS 316.012\(1\)](#) to be constructed within the limits of the municipality.

One requirement of this delegated authority is for the municipality/county to obtain and maintain an Electrical Inspection Agency (EIA) credential from DSPS. This credential is good for 4 years before needing to be renewed. Now that it has been five years since the code went into effect, many of these credentials have expired and not been renewed.

As of the preparation of this article, there are 552 municipalities and counties delegated for commercial electrical permitting and inspections. Out of those, 433 have an active EIA credential and 119 have an expired EIA credential. This equates to more than 21% of delegated municipalities/counties with an expired credential.

Note that if the municipality/county contracts with an independent inspection agency, the inspection agency must also hold a separate EIA credential.

## How can I get the Electrical Inspection Agency (EIA) credential?

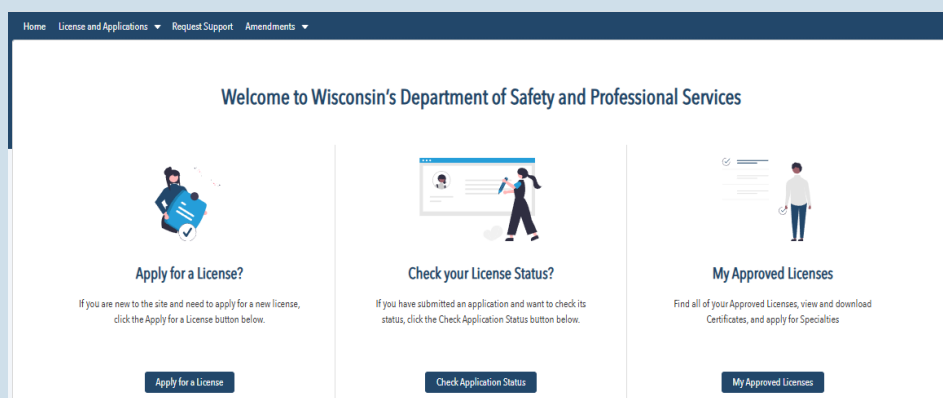
The EIA credential is required for an agency or person to complete commercial electrical inspections within Wisconsin. [SPS 305.629](#) states that no person or municipality may engage in, or offer to engage in, providing plan review, permit issuance, or inspections regarding electrical wiring under the scope of SPS 316 unless the person or municipality holds a registration from the Department as a registered inspection agency.

This credential may be obtained by completing the following:

- An application at [license.wi.gov](https://license.wi.gov) in accordance with [SPS 305.01](#).
- An application fee and registration fee in accordance with Table 305.02 of [SPS 305.02](#).

The applicant for this credential shall be one of the following:

- If a municipality: the department head of the agency administering the electrical program.
- If not a municipality: the owner of the business, a partner in the business applying on behalf of a partnership, or the chairman of the board or chief executive officer applying on behalf of a corporation.



## Can I issue permits and inspections once the credential is issued?

No – obtaining the credential is one step of the delegation process. In addition to the credential application described above, submit the following items for Department review at least 60 days prior to the date upon which your municipality intends to assume this jurisdiction.

1. Applicable pages of the [Delegation Application](#). This provides DSPS with notification of your municipality's intent to assume jurisdiction and the name(s) of the certified commercial electrical inspectors which your municipality employs, or contracts with, to perform electrical inspection activities.
2. All the municipality's electrical ordinances, amendments, or resolutions, adopting SPS 316 in its entirety.
3. The municipality's fee schedule showing the commercial electrical fees to be paid by customers.

| <b>Commercial Electrical</b>   |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>SECTION 1: Check to Request Commercial Electrical Delegation.</b>   |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting and inspection for electrical wiring at farms, public buildings, places of employment, campgrounds, manufactured home communities, public marinas, piers, docks, wharves, and recreational vehicle parks. [Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 316.011]                   |              |
| <b>SECTION 2: Code Enforcement Information.</b> Municipalities must utilize a certified commercial electrical inspector or contract with an inspection agency to perform the inspection functions. Include this information below.   |              |
| Name of Certified Inspector: _____   |              |
| Contracted Agency that Employs Certified Inspector (if applicable): _____  |              |
| Commercial Electrical Inspector Credential #: _____  |              |
| Phone: _____   | Email: _____ |
| <b>SECTION 3: Electrical Inspection Agency Credential.</b> Municipalities and contracted inspection agencies shall each hold a valid Electrical Inspection Agency credential. See the <a href="#">DSPS Credential site</a> for information. [Wis. Admin. Code §§ SPS 305.629 and 316.011(1)(a)1] |              |
| Municipality's Electrical Inspection Agency Credential #: _____  |              |
| Agency's Electrical Inspection Agency credential # (if contracting with an agency): _____  |              |
| <b>SECTION 4: Required Documentation.</b>  |              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current ordinance showing a) adoption of the Wisconsin State Code Chapter SPS 316, b) permitting requirements, c) electrical requirements, and d) fee schedule or reference to fees. A <a href="#">model ordinance</a> is available, if needed.                         |              |

## What are the conditions of my commercial electrical delegation?

Once delegated, conditions of maintaining the authority include:

- Maintaining your registration as an Electrical Inspection Agency (credential).
- Providing DSPS with a copy of any revisions to your municipal electrical ordinance.
- Employing or contracting with a certified commercial electrical inspector or independent inspection agency.
- Providing DSPS with any changes to its certified electrical inspectors.
- Providing DSPS with any changes to its contact person for the delegation.

A municipality/county should also renew their delegation at the time the EIA is to be renewed, and/or as requested by DSPS.

Get more information on the EIA credential at the [credential information page](#).

Find more on commercial electrical delegation and other disciplines in DSPS's Delegation Program on the [Delegated Agent webpage](#).

**Applying for a new credential?** Visit [license.wi.gov](https://license.wi.gov) to get started and use the [EIA Application Instructions](#) to guide you through the submission process.

**Renewing a credential?** Use your existing LicenseE account or, if you have not yet used LicenseE for your expired credential, reach out to [DSPS](#) for your login information.

# Conveyance Safety and Accident Reporting

Over the course of a typical year, the DSPS Conveyance Program investigates 10 to 15 conveyance accidents within Wisconsin. Fingers crossed - 2025 has been a safer-than-normal year as there have only been 5 reported accidents so far. Escalator accidents make up 40% of all reported accidents, mostly due to elderly people losing their balance and children or young people riding the lifts incorrectly. Recurring causes of accidents on passenger elevators are typically related to people being struck by closing doors or the machine improperly leveling at the landing, causing a trip hazard.

SPS 318 for Elevators, Escalators, and Lift Devices requires accident reporting when any bodily injury requiring more than first-aid treatment occurs in conjunction with a conveyance. First-aid is defined as care that does not require follow-up with a healthcare professional and is not considered medical treatment.

In the event of an accident, the conveyance maintenance provider must be contacted to remove the conveyance from service immediately. No repairs or additional maintenance shall be performed on the conveyance prior to the State Elevator Inspector's investigation.

***DSPS must be notified within 48 hours if there was an injury, and within 24 hours if a death occurred.***

Every conveyance should have an accident sticker listing contact information on the controller or in the machine room. The owner or its representative is required to fully complete the DSPS accident report [Form SBD-10782](#) and submit via directions on the form.

Once contacted, the State Elevator Inspector will coordinate with the maintenance mechanic and owner on an investigation date. The inspector will ask the owner to have any videos and/or witnesses available at this time, as well as the completed accident report. The inspector and the maintenance mechanic will test and inspect the operation of the unit to determine the root cause of the incident. Any necessary repairs or adjustments will be performed and any testing, inspection, or permitting requirements that are outstanding will need to be satisfied before the conveyance is placed back into service for public use.

Accident reports are investigated by the State Elevator Inspector and their findings are recorded in the conveyance's inspection history in DSPS's eSLA database. State Elevator Inspectors have found that very rarely an accident is caused by the failure of the conveyance, as most are caused by human error. Being aware of closing doors and directing elderly people to elevators instead of escalators are simple methods for avoiding accidents.

## Need to Report an Accident?

To report an elevator, escalator, or dumbwaiter accident during regular business hours, call 608-622-6587. For after hours, weekends, or holidays, call Wisconsin Emergency Management after-hours incident reporting at 1(800) 943-0003 ext. 2.

For more information, visit the DSPS [Elevator and Conveyance webpage](#).

## DIS Staff Updates

### Welcome new employees!

James Fay  
Public Sector Employee Safety  
Inspector

**The following individuals are no longer with DIS. Check the [District Maps](#) for new contact information in your area**

James Creegan  
Public Sector Employee Safety  
Inspector



# Let's Talk Balconies, Decks, and Patios

Balconies, decks, and patios are specific locations in residential commercial buildings that may require automatic fire sprinkler system protection. These spaces are not specifically defined in adopted ICC codes but the ordinarily accepted meanings (from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary) are below.

**Balcony:** A platform that projects from the wall of a building and is enclosed by a parapet or railing.

**Deck:** A flat floored roofless area adjoining a house.

**Patio:** A recreation area that adjoins dwelling, is often paved, and is adapted especially to outdoor dining.

The protection of these locations is dependent on:

- The construction of the building.
- The construction of the balcony/deck/patio.
- The storage of combustibles.
- The NFPA standard used (13, 13R, or 13D).
- Wisconsin Administrative SPS and IBC codes.

NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7 addresses "exterior projections." Exterior projections include balconies, decks, and patios. NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7.1 requires sprinkler protection under all exterior canopies exceeding 4 feet in width, unless meeting either NFPA 13 Sections 8.15.7.2 or 8.15.7.3. NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7.2 allows projections to omit sprinkler protection if the construction of the overhang is noncombustible, limited combustible, or fire-retardant treated wood. NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7.3 allows a combustible projection to omit sprinkler protection from below the projection if the exposed finish materials are noncombustible or limited combustible and the combustible concealed space within the projection is either protected by the automatic fire sprinkler system or is allowed to be omitted in certain conditions. See NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7.3 for specific information on the combustible concealed space protection requirements. Also see [Fire Protection FAQ #9](#) for more information regarding the extent of exposed finish materials for these projections to meet this section.



*Balconies, Decks, and Patios continued on next page*  
*Balconies, Decks, and Patios continued from previous page*

NFPA 13 Section 8.15.7.5 specifies that exterior projections exceeding 2 feet wide where combustibles are stored must be protected. Generally, patio furniture itself would not be considered combustibles storage. Note that SPS 314 adopts the 2012 edition of NFPA 1 which does not allow portable grills to be located on balconies, under overhangs, or within 10 feet of commercial multifamily residential buildings. See NFPA 1 - 2012 section 10.11.6 for more information.

[SPS 362.0903\(9\)](#) addresses balconies, decks, and patios of dwelling and sleeping units where the automatic fire sprinkler system is designed to NFPA 13R standards. This section requires sprinkler protection of exterior balconies, decks, and ground-floor patios where the building is of Type V construction and there is a deck or roof above. Note that the building construction type is the qualifier for protection of these spaces. In the above paragraph on NFPA 13, the construction of the projection itself was one of the main determiners of the requirement for sprinkler protection. Also per [SPS 362.0903\(9\)](#), it is the construction of the building, not the specific construction of the exterior balcony, deck, or patio. Additional information regarding NFPA 13 in this code section and what constitutes a roof above is explained in [Fire Protection FAQ #2](#).

NFPA 13R primarily encompasses life safety and not property protection. However, because of the probability of a fire on a balcony, patio, or deck potentially entering an unprotected floor/ceiling assembly or attic space, the code writers included this limited protection to avoid a large loss of property.

Buildings required to be protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system designed per NFPA 13D standards have no provisions that require the protection of balconies, decks, and patios by the automatic fire sprinkler system.

One last note - IBC 1406.3 addresses balconies and similar projections. This section requires balconies, decks, and patios to be fire resistance rated where required by IBC Table 601. Exception #3 of this section allows balconies constructed of Type V construction to not require the fire resistance rating where sprinkler protection is extended to these areas. For example, if the balcony is of Type VA construction and Table 601 requires that the floor be one hour fire resistance rated construction, sprinkler protection can be extended to this area per IBC 1406.3 Exception #3. The use of Exception #3 can potentially be more stringent than the requirements of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, SPS 362.0903(9), or NFPA 13D standards.

### Specific Circumstance and Additional Guidance

Contact the DSPS Fireprotech team at [DSPSSBFireprotech@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DSPSSBFireprotech@wisconsin.gov)

## DIS Open Positions

Visit [wisc.jobs](https://wisc.jobs) to apply today!

### Electrical Inspection Consultant

This position requires independent statewide travel throughout Wisconsin to be a primary consultant on technical and complex code issues related to electrical permitting and installation. Qualified candidates have the Wisconsin Commercial Electrical Inspector license and the Wisconsin Master Electrician license at the time of application. *Job ID 14648*

## Tech Box Questions

DIS maintains program-specific email inboxes (Tech Box) to provide a general code answer or direct you to an appropriate code section. Non-technical questions for eSLA, permits, delegated agents, and invoices have their own Tech Box! Use the appropriate email to ensure a timely response to your question. View the [full list of Tech Box emails here](#)! See an example below of actual customer questions submitted to our tech boxes!

Dear DSPS Elevator Tech,

We have an existing building and want to install a mobile lift on the exterior of the building. We plan on bolting it in place to make it permanent. Are lifts allowed to be installed outside? Is there anything else that I need to be aware of?

Signed,  
Mobile Lifts

Dear Mobile Lifts,

DSPS elevator safety does not regulate portable or "relocatable" lifts unless they are secured in place and are no longer portable. If no longer portable, they are regulated as normal permanent lifts.

Unfortunately, finding a lift that would work may be difficult as DSPS isn't aware of any portable models that meet the adopted ASME A18.1 code for permanent installation. This is normally due to the absence of guarding, doors, or gates meeting code requirements. Most portables are also smaller than the 36" x 54" min. required size and the lift would need to be listed for outdoor use.

We recommend contacting a Wisconsin licensed conveyance contractor and inquire about a permanent, code compliant, outdoor platform lift that meets the ASME A18.1 code standard. These lifts do exist and would be eligible for installation in Wisconsin.

- DSPS Elevator Tech

Dear DSPS Building Tech,

I am looking for clarification with respect to Wisconsin Chapter A-E 2.02(7), which was recently modified.

When utilizing 7(b) 1 or 2 below, is it acceptable to wet sign the seals page and scan that to the electronic drawing set? If no, what is the acceptable procedure to get the paper copy of the seal sheet into the electronic drawing set?

*(7) (b) All seals on plans, drawings, documents, specifications, and reports to be filed as public documents shall be signed and dated by the credential holder in one of the following manners:*

*1. Physical placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the credential holder and date.*

*2. Digital placement of a seal and a handwritten signature in permanent ink containing the name of the credential holder and date.*

Signed,  
No Digital Signatures

Dear No Digital Signatures,

Your proposed signing method is sufficient at meeting the SPS 361.31(1)(a) and A-E 2.02 provisions for signing and sealing of building plan for the electronic submittal to DSPS for review of plans. However, ensure the plan set file is not "locked" so that DSPS staff is able to place an electronic approval stamp onto the plan set.

- DSPS Bldg Tech



## Gov. Evers Announces \$125 Million in Projects Across Wisconsin

Gov. Tony Evers announced the Wisconsin State Building Commission (SBC) met to approve important projects totaling approximately \$125 million statewide.

"Whether it's supporting the success of students and our state's dedicated public servants, investing in community infrastructure to uphold public safety, or ensuring we are laying the groundwork to advance future development, these investments today will pay dividends for our state's future," said Gov. Evers. "We will continue to prioritize the continued development and maintenance of statewide infrastructure to best serve Wisconsinites in communities across our state."

Highlights of the Commission's approved projects from the meeting include:

- Phase IV renovations at the Milwaukee Readiness Center, continuing the phased modernization of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's historic training facility.
- Expanding UW-Madison's ownership in the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery and space located beneath the new Computer, Data, and Information Science building.
- Approving utility infrastructure upgrades at UW-Stevens Point and UW-La Crosse.
- Approving 31 facility maintenance and repair projects for several state agencies across the state.

Gov. Evers' 2025-27 Capital Budget, which represents one of the strongest investments to date for Wisconsin's facility infrastructure and significant planning funds to prepare important construction projects for future enumerations, will now go before the budget committee.

This is a condensed version of the Governor's press release. Read the full version [here](#).

## Recent Enforcement Actions

- The Department entered a Stop Use/Stop Work Order against a City of Oconto brewery due to their failure to allow the Department to inspect the premises to determine building code violations.
- The Department executed a special inspection search warrant against a City of Oconto brewery due to their failure to allow the Department to inspect the premises to determine building code violations.
- The Department entered a Notice of Violations and Order against commercial buildings in the Town of Maple Grove. Buildings had been constructed without any commercial building plan submittal, approval, or inspection.
- The Department revoked the ability to renew expired credentials for an Ashland dwelling contractor/dwelling contractor qualifier who engaged in financial misconduct.
- The Department entered a forfeiture against a Tomahawk Residential Master Electrician for engaging in commercial electrical work.
- The Department entered a Notice of Violations and Order against a sawmill in the Town of Springfield, St. Croix County. The building had been constructed without any commercial building plan submittal, approval, or inspection.
- The Department entered a Notice of Violations and Order against a commercial building in the Town of Springfield for changing the use of the property without undergoing the proper plan review submittal and approval.