

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS INDUSTRY ALERT!

By Gary Smith, IBA Director

(As an IEC member your dues includes membership in the Independent Business Association of Washington. You may have received this alert already in the mail but for those who didn't, we are reprinting this for your attention.) August 12, 2004

I have Good news and Bad news for Electrical Contractors!

L & I is actively working to reduce illegal competition against electrical contractors through its SAFES (Strategic Action For Electrical Safety) program-a new electrical contractor compliance program. (Find out more about this via the Internet at http://www.Ini.wa.gov/tradeslicensing/electrical/fines/currents/elc04_07.pdf) This is a result of your requests of IBA in the past to get the Department to actively work to find illegal contractors and stop them from competing with legal contractors and stop them from competing with legal contractors. Now L & I is doing what you ask

That's the good news- L & I is out doing what you asked!

Now the bad news!

Some licensed electrical contractors are being caught up in the SAFES compliance effort because they failed to do what is required when required. A recent IBA member and licensed electrical contractor was cited by the SAFES program for doing one and potentially two things wrong:

- Began doing electrical work before getting a permit.
- Having an electrician doing electrical work beyond the scope of his license.

Here is a quick checklist to help you avoid problems with SAFES effort:

- **Get an electrical permit BEFORE you begin doing electrical work**
- **If it is an emergency situation, at a minimum call in to L&I BEFORE you begin work and notify them (leave a message if no one answers the phone) that you are doing emergency work, hang the hard copy of the permit on the job before you start the work, and get the permit the next morning-latest.**
- **Make sure everyone has their electricians certification card on their person and the administrator has his card with him.**
- **Make sure that people are working within the scope of their license!**

Some of you are probably saying, "Why are they hassling us when there are so many illegal contractors out there for them to chase down?" The IBA is in contact with the agency regarding this issue but until something can be worked out, our advice -you are urged to make sure you are doing things by the book to avoid problems.

If you have comments, questions or ideas regarding this, please share them by calling the IBA at 425-453-8621 or email at iba@isomedia.com

ATTENTION ALL MERIT CONTRACTORS!

**IF YOU KNOW OF A SMALL CONTRACTOR
THAT HAS 1-5 FIELD EMPLOYEES (OR ARE ONE)**

JOIN IEC NOW

**AND YOUR DUES WILL BE HALF PRICE
THROUGH THE END OF 2004!**



**If you REFER/SPONSOR an eligible contractor,
at any time, and they join, *let us know!***

**Fill out a brief sponsorship form and
we'll send you \$50 as a way of saying "Thank You"
for taking the time to spread the word about the
Independent Electrical Contractors Association!**