



and Make it

TIPS

Published: Dec 2002
Revised: January 2008

At the October 2002 D/D/O meeting in College Station, recent history in TxDOT's plans to improve the quality and safety of our electrical work was reviewed. The department's effort to improve electrical work was given momentum several years ago when a citizen was electrocuted on one of our lighting systems. Wes Heald, the executive director at the time, asked us what else we could do to improve TxDOT's electrical systems. The following four-point plan was developed:

1. Improve the plans to show better grounding.
2. Use the National Electrical Code.
3. Implement new technology—the electrical and lighting monitoring systems (ELMS).
4. Improve the qualifications of our inspectors and contractors. This has been done by using the Electrical Review Team to get the districts more involved; by producing videotapes for training on electrical systems; and by improving the electrical systems training courses for inspectors and contractors (a person passing the test of one of the Electrical Systems Courses then becomes a "certified person").

Item 7 requires a certified person or licensed electrician (abbreviated CP herein) to directly supervise or perform electrical work. Electrical contractors and prime contractors support this requirement. They realize they may have an extended liability when it comes to electrical systems. Some electrical team reviews have found non-compliance with the requirements of Item 7. The requirement can be verified by obtaining the certificates or licenses for the contractor designees, or by requesting a letter from the contractor that identifies the CP for the project by name.

The specification also requires suspension of electrical work if there is not a certified or licensed person either doing the work or directly supervising those who are performing the work. Work performed without the proper CP supervision is not in accordance with the specifications, and TxDOT has the authority to withhold payment, delay payment until the work is carefully inspected and approved or have the work redone.

Contractors can contact the TxDOT Human Resources Division to enroll in one of the electrical systems courses sponsored by the Traffic Operations Division. If you need further clarification, please contact Greg Jones, P.E., Traffic Operations Division, at 512/416-3121 or gjones2@dot.state.tx.us.



Published Quarterly
by the **Construction**
and **Bridge Divisions**

Enforcement of Electrical Certification

