



# CONCORD FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

## *Fire Marshal's Office*

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### **TEMPORARY POWER REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this guideline is to provide requirements for the installation of Temporary Power to commercial structures located within the City Limits of Concord.

#### **Temporary Power**

A request for temporary power shall be made by and in the name of, the "responsible agent" of the property. Upon submittal, the following requirements shall be considered when a request for "Temporary Power" has been made:

#### **Existing Building – Upfit, Employee Training, Load Merchandise, Etc.**

Temporary Power is issued by the City; when power to an existing structure has been turned off by the prior occupant and interior remodeling or an "Upfit", Employee Training or Load Merchandise permit has been purchased. This type of Temporary Power is restricted to only those functions or appliances necessary to complete the provisions of the permit. Upon issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, the Temporary Power will be considered to be Permanent Power.

1. The request shall be filled out using a City Temporary Power Form;
2. A fire inspection is required prior to approval being given;
3. All items noted during the inspection shall be corrected prior to power being connected to the building;
4. A permit fee shall be assessed and collected with COC fee at final inspection;
5. The request shall be added in the Firehouse Occupancy Module to COC Fees.

#### **Existing Building - Certificate of Compliance (COC)**

Temporary Power is issued by the City and County; when power to a structure has been turned off by the prior occupant and a new tenant wishes to occupy a building or tenant space. Upon the approval of Temporary Power, the building or tenant space will be energized. Upon issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, the Temporary Power will be considered to be Permanent Power.

1. The request shall be filled out using a City and County Temporary Power Form;
2. A fire inspection is required prior to approval being given;
3. All items noted during the inspection shall be corrected prior to power being connected to the building;
4. A permit fee shall be assessed and collected with COC fee at final inspection;
5. The request shall be added in the Firehouse Occupancy Module to COC Fees.

Temporary Power Requirements  
November 15, 2005

## **New Building - Certificate of Compliance (COC)**

Temporary Power is issued by the City and County; when power to a new structure is initially constructed. This type of Temporary Power is restricted to only those functions required to test equipment and/or appliances and any other items necessary to complete the Certificate of Compliance (COC). Upon issuance of a Certificate of Compliance the Temporary Power will be considered to be Permanent Power.

1. The request shall be filled out using City and County Temporary Power Forms;
2. A fire inspection is required prior to approval being given;
3. All items noted during the inspection shall be corrected prior to power being connected to the building;
4. A permit fee shall be assessed and collected with COC fee at final inspection;
5. The request shall be added in the Firehouse Occupancy Module to COC Fees.

### **Temporary Power Inspection Procedure**

1. A request for temporary power inspection shall be made by and in the name of the "responsible agent" of the property. The "responsible agent" of the property is responsible for scheduling the time, date, and location for the inspection;
2. The "responsible agent" of the property shall be responsible for providing the Cabarrus County Temporary Power form at the time of inspection;
3. Upon his/her arrival, the "Fire Official" shall initiate an inspection of the building with the "responsible agent" of the property and begin documentation of the inspection on a Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form;
4. If any hazards or code violations of the Fire Code are observed during the inspection, the "Fire Official" shall document all hazards, code violations and any other items on a Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form. All hazards and code violations observed shall be thoroughly explained and detailed to the "responsible agent" at the time of inspection;
5. All hazards and code violations shall corrected and/or repaired by the "responsible agent" prior to temporary power being approved;
6. If no hazards and code violations are observed, the "Fire Official" shall sign any appropriate forms as necessary for approval;
7. The "responsible agent" shall provide documentation that the property has been inspected by a licensed electrician and approved by the Cabarrus County Electrical Inspector. Failure to provide adequate documentation constitutes denial of the Temporary Power request;
8. The "Fire Official" shall document the fee for the inspection on the Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form;
9. The "Fire Official" shall request the "responsible agent" of the property to sign the Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form. A copy of the Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form shall be given to the "responsible agent" of the property;

10. The “responsible agent” of the property shall be responsible for returning the Cabarrus County Temporary Power form and any other documents to the Cabarrus County Building Inspection Department at 65 Church Street South,
11. The “Fire Official” shall submit the Concord Department of Fire and Life Safety Fire Inspection form to the Permit Technician upon returning to the station. The form shall be filed in the Occupancy File.

### **Required Items For Temp Power Approval.**

The following items indicated are the minimum requirements for Temporary Power approval:

1. If applicable, all required fire hydrants must be in their approved locations as indicated on the Site Plan for the facility. All hydrants shall be in-service, tested and approved by the Water Resources Department;
2. Adequate access must be provided and maintained to the site. All turning radiuses shall be inspected, maintained and approved;
3. All required “Life Safety” systems including, but not limited too: fire alarms, emergency lights, sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, hood systems and/or other fire detection/suppression systems must be reviewed, permitted and approved. These systems shall also be in the process of being installed at the time of Temporary Power request;
4. All hand-held temporary fire suppression devices including fire extinguishers, hose carts, wheel fire extinguishing units and other types of devices shall be in place.

The Fire Marshal’s Office reserves the right to implement additional safe guards and requirements on an “as needed” basis. Occupancy types, construction features, site hazards, topographical concerns, and other items shall be employed in the decision to implement additional safe guards and requirements. Justification for additional safeguards shall be documented and filed.

### **Disconnection of Service Utilities**

Violations of this guideline constitute Section 308.2 (Authority to Disconnect Service Utilities) of the NC Administrative Code being invoked against the “responsible agent” of the property in question.

Upon inspection, any violations of this guideline, or unsafe conditions are observed; the “Fire Official” shall notify the Bureau Chief of the conditions. The Cabarrus County Electrical Inspector shall be notified of the violations and/or unsafe conditions.

The decision to disconnect service utilities to a building shall be jointly made by the Bureau Chief and the Cabarrus County Electrical Inspector. The criteria set forth in Section 308.2 (Authority to Disconnect Service Utilities) of the NC Administrative Code shall be instituted in the notification of the “responsible agent” of the decision to disconnect power to the structure or building.

The “responsible agent” shall be notified in writing within the time periods set forth in the Administrative Code of the violations of this guideline or unsafe conditions and the methods, devices or items needed to correct the violations or unsafe conditions.

At the time of electrical power disconnection, all permits for the property in question shall be revoked. The “responsible agent” shall resubmit all permits and additional fee charges shall be applied.

Upon the reissuance of permits, the “Fire Official” shall dictate what requirements shall be followed for the reconnection if warranted, of Temporary Power to the property in question. After all requirements have been met, it shall be at the discretion of the “Fire Official” and the Cabarrus County Electrical Inspector as to when the power shall be reconnected to the property.

The connection of Temporary Power to a structure is considered to be a privilege and is not guaranteed. Continued abuse of this policy by the “responsible agent” constitutes possible denial of Temporary Power for future projects that involve the “responsible agent”.

## **NC Administrative Code**

Authority for the installation and disconnection of electrical power is outlined in the following sections of the North Carolina Administrative Code:

### **308 SERVICE UTILITIES**

**308.1 Connection of Service Utilities.** No person shall make connections from a utility, source of energy, fuel or power to any building or system which is regulated by the technical codes until approved by the Inspection Department and a Certificate of Compliance is issued (General Statute 143-143.2).

**308.2 Authority to Disconnect Service Utilities.** The Inspection Department shall have the authority to require disconnecting a utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by the technical codes, in case of emergency or where necessary to eliminate an imminent hazard to life or property. The Inspection Department shall have the authority to disconnect a utility service when a building has been illegally occupied and entry into the building for purposes of making inspections cannot be readily granted. The Inspection Department shall notify the serving utility, and whenever possible the owner and/or occupant of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnecting, the owner or occupant shall be notified in writing within eight (8) working hours (General Statutes 143-143.2, 153A-365, 153A-366, 160A-425 and 160A-426).

**308.3 Temporary Connection.** The Inspection Department may authorize the temporary connection of the building or system to the utility source of energy, fuel or power for the purpose of testing building service systems (General Statutes 153A-363 and 160A-423).

### **308.4 Temporary Electrical Power**

**308.4.1 Scope.** The provisions of this section apply to the utilization of portions of the permanent wiring system with a building to facilitate construction.

**308.4.2 Definition.** Responsible Agent-for the purpose of this section, the responsible agent shall be the entity(s) who, in fulfillment of contractual obligation or otherwise, is empowered to control and supervise all construction activities. The suitability of the responsible agent shall be at the sole discretion of the authority having jurisdiction.

**308.4.3 Other Articles.** Except as modified in this section, all other Articles of the North Carolina Electrical Code shall apply.

**308.4.4 Uses Permitted.** Utilization of portions of the permanent wiring system to facilitate construction shall be permitted and limited to those instances in which the use is deemed to be of reasonable necessity. Reasonable necessity shall include any of the following:

1. The utilization of permanently installed HVAC equipment to maintain environmental conditions necessary to facilitate the installation of environmentally sensitive materials, or finishes in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
2. Where the distance between the construction site electrical service and any interior point at floor level is in excess of 200 feet following the most direct route that an extension cord could reasonably be routed;
3. Testing of building service systems; or
4. Other situations as allowed by special permission

**308.4.5 Uses Prohibited.** Utilization of portions of the permanent wiring system during construction for any purpose other than testing and verification shall not be permitted where the use is solely for convenience. In no case shall any portions of the permanent wiring be energized for construction purposes until the portions have been inspected and released by the electrical Code Enforcement Official.

**308.4.6 Application for Power.** Application for power shall be made by and in the name of the responsible agent. The application shall explicitly state the portions of the electrical system for which application is made, its intended use and duration. ... The applicant shall receive written permission from the electrical contractor stating the portions and suitability of those portions of the electrical system to be energized. The applicant shall also receive written permission from the mechanical and/or plumbing contractor if their respective systems are to be operated, stating which systems and the suitability of such systems to be operated.

**308.4.7 Ground Fault Circuit Interruption Protection.** All 125-volt single-phase branch circuits authorized for use shall have ground-fault interrupter protection for personnel from its point of origin. Exception: Branch circuits used exclusively for lighting and routed in metallic raceways, or otherwise protected by location so as to exclude the potential for mechanical damage.

**308.4.8 Security and Notification.** The responsible agent shall maintain the energized electrical system or that portion of the building containing the system in a secured and locked manner or under constant supervision to exclude unauthorized personnel. The responsible agent shall assume the responsibility to alert personnel working in the vicinity of the energized electrical system to its presence.

**308.4.9 Inspections.** Adequate inspections as deemed necessary by the Code Enforcement Official shall be made prior to energization to assure that the usage complies with the requirements of Section 308 of this code.

**308.4.10 Consent of Responsible Agent.** The responsible agent shall consent to all provisions of this section. Additionally, consent shall be extended to remove or allow to be removed all power supplied to a building or structure under these provisions when in the sole discretion of the Code Enforcement Official, such service is no longer consistent with the provisions of this section. Such consent shall be in writing as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction.

**308.4.11 Unauthorized Energization.** Unauthorized energization or use of the permanent wiring system or any portion thereof shall be prima facie evidence of a hazard, which at the sole discretion of the Code Enforcement Official may result in disconnection of power, revocation of permit, and/or refusal to consider future requests for temporary power as prescribed in Section 308.4 of this code.