



Connections

A Newsletter of the North Dakota State Electrical Board

Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

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A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello everyone! Did you know May is National Electrical Safety Month according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

The NDSEB has asked Governor Dalrymple to proclaim May as "Electrical Safety Month" in ND as we want to raise the awareness of potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety!

ESFI's theme this year is "**Be in the Know about the New**" which educates consumers about the emerging electrical technologies and how they relate to existing home electrical systems. So educate your customers on the latest

safety related electrical products out there. If you're interested, check out their website as there is also safety ideas for the workplace at: <http://www.electrical-safety.org>.

Remember also to keep us informed of your most current e-mail and mailing address as information is transmitted from this office from time to time via e-mail. When the license renewal notices were sent out, we did get a lot of them back as "undeliverable" so keep us informed if your address changes.

To update you on the progress of the administrative rule change to article 24-02-01-02 para 3 on page 22 of the ND State Wiring Standards: It was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's

Office and is now at the ND Legislative Council. If all is accepted and approved, the revised date that it will become an administrative rule will most likely be July 1, 2013.

Our office has received several proposed administrative rule changes which will be reviewed by the Board. We appreciate the interest and time that individuals have spent concerning our industry by sending in these proposals. It's always good when input is received from the industry for consideration.

This office is still receiving calls from consumers and electricians saying there are unlicensed persons advertising to provide and performing electrical work. Again we can't be everywhere so please let us know when you run across this so we can look into it as we do appreciate your help.

The staff and I are available for questions or information you may seek, so give us a call or send an e-mail so we can assist you. Remember to check our website at NDSEB.com for updates and notices. Let us know how we are doing as we welcome feedback.

NDSEB Announces New CEU Class Schedule

The North Dakota State Electrical Board has changed the schedule for Continuing Education Unit classes (CEU). Instead of offering the classes in only January and February as in years' past, they will be spread out throughout the year in various locations around the state (see newsletter insert for detailed schedule and locations).

Class sizes will be limited to 125 to 150 participants, so individuals interested in attending a certain class are encouraged to register early. Only online registrations will be accepted at www.ndseb.com and registration will close one week prior to the class start date.



NDSEB Safety and Training Director Ed Therriault presents at the March CEU class in Bismarck.

Offering CEU classes more often at various locations will hopefully make it easier for individuals to attend. The classes will still provide 8 hours of code related CEU credits, which should be recognized in many of the states in which ND reciprocates electrical licenses. (Individuals are encouraged to check with particular states to ensure

the credits will be honored, as each state has different requirements.)

The structure of the class will change as well. Participants will be required to look up code articles and do calculations during the class. Registrants are reminded to bring the necessary items to class, including the 2011 NEC Code book and a calculator (see insert for complete list).

Therriault also plans to offer specialized classes aimed at single topics in between the regular classes. Those classes will be announced on the website and through a newsletter when they are scheduled.

Anyone with ideas for specific topics they would like to see discussed are encouraged to e-mail either Ed Therriault at edtherriault@nd.gov or James Schmidt at jamesschmidt@nd.gov with your ideas. ☺

Inside This Issue . . .

- NDSEB Announces New CEU Class Schedule
- News and Notes from the NDSEB
- Safety Corner: Job Site Safety
- Highlights from February Inspectors' Meeting
- Making a Connection: District 3 Inspector Mitch Feininger
- A Message from the Executive Director

News & Notes from the NDSEB

- License Renewals:** We made it through the apprentice and journeyman license renewals and are now approaching the deadline for the master and class B license renewals (due April 30, 2013). We want to remind the contracting masters and class B electricians to include the list of individuals working under your license and supervision as well as making sure your Certificate of Insurance is current with this office.
- Reasons why journeyman exam applications are getting denied or returned to the applicant:**
 - Not maintaining your apprenticeship registration throughout your apprenticeship time period (not being registered equals lost experience time).
 - 8,000 hours of experience may not be obtained in less than three (3) years (ND Laws & Rules 24-02-01-02(b)).
 - Not including an official transcript of an approved 2-year electrical degree or completion certificate of an approved apprenticeship program.
 - Re-exam applicants cannot re-apply until their waiting period has passed.
 - Application is received **before** the 8,000 hour work experience minimum is met.
 - For reciprocity applicants, not meeting the one year requirement of a license being active and in good standing for one year in the state planning to reciprocate from.
- Electrical Correction Reports:** One subject that gets brought to this office's attention is Electrical Correction Reports. Keep in mind when a wiring certificate is issued, the contracting master or class B electrician issuing the wiring certificate is the responsible individual for the electrical work. Lately the NDSEB office has been getting calls regarding an owner that has a "problem" with a contractor and wants to hire someone else to complete the corrections and then back charge the original master or class B certifying the work. The Board doesn't get into the business end of any arrangements individuals have with each other but please remember that a wiring certificate is a legal document holding the contracting master or class B issuing the certificate to legal obligations to complete the work according to codes and standards set forth in law.
- Also be aware that by signing and submitting a correction report to this office you are certifying that the correction(s) has been completed. Please do not sign and submit an incomplete correction report as this is a violation of our laws and rules. If you need additional time, please contact the inspector or the Board's office for an extension to avoid the past due status or administrative late fees.
- Inspector Positions: NOW HIRING!!** At the March, 2013 Board meeting, there was discussion on the possibility of needing two temporary inspectors for the 2013 summer. Also, the Board discussed adding additional full-time inspector position(s). If you're interested in these positions, watch for upcoming ads at ND Job Service or check our website (www.ndseb.com)- Employment Opportunities).

Safety Corner: Using One Call

Being safe on the jobsite is crucial in our industry and can literally mean the difference between life and death. Always take the time to do things the correct and safe way!

Using the One Call system to locate utilities is critically important. In the photo at the right, this impatient electrician drove the G-rod BEFORE One Call got there. As you can see, he drove it right through the gas line (One Call later marked the line with

yellow paint). Gas started leaking out creating a dangerous situation. The utility company was called out to correct the problem (and they were not pleased).

Remember: **ALWAYS** call One Call first at 811 or 1-800-795-0555 and wait until they mark existing utilities before proceeding.

If any utility is hit, contact the utility company immediately.



Highlights from February Inspectors' Meeting

- NDSEB** Inspectors met February 20th-22nd in Bismarck. Highlights of their discussions include the following topics:
 - Unsupervised Apprentices and Unlicensed Individuals:** In an effort to maintain the value of your state-issued license, we continue to cite contractors for being out of compliance with the apprentice/journeyman ratio. Inspectors are also regularly finding unlicensed individuals willing to do electrical work. This results in a lot of extra time spent by our inspectors on job sites, with home owners and in the States Attorney's office
- Drop cords in commercial garages:** Drop cords that are not Class I Division II rated and reach into the 18" classified floor area represent a hazard and code violation. They defeat the safe working environment created by NEC standards. Products and tools used in those locations should be tested and listed for that application.

filing complaints.

- Egress Signage and Illumination:** While the North Dakota Wiring Standards defines some general rules on pages 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45, ND 24-02-01-16 describes it as "in simple and condensed form". It's best to check with local building officials on their application of these NFPA -101 fire



egress standards. If your plan(s) are incomplete, this does not exempt you from these life safety standards.

Making A Connection: District 3 Inspector Mitch Feininger

Originally from Dickinson, ND, Mitch Feininger has been an electrical inspector with the NDSEB for 8 years. Previously, he worked for Anheuser-Busch as a Plant Electrician, IBEW, and at Feininger Electric, which was owned and operated by his father and originally started by his grandfather in Dickinson in the 1950s. "My favorite aspect of my dad's business is he works in the field everyday with the tools with his employees as my grandfather did before him," notes Feininger.



What is your favorite part of your job?
Working for the citizens of North Dakota.

Do you have a favorite memory or experience while working for the Board?
Helping the people of Dickinson during the tornado and helping the people of Minot during the flood.

The best thing about North Dakota is . . . ? *Pheasant hunting and walleye fishing.*

What are your hobbies? *Outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, scuba diving, golfing, kayaking. I am a pheasant hunting guide in the Dickinson area.*

What would be your dream vacation? *I'd love to do a comprehensive tour of Europe and Asia.*

What's your favorite TV show? *Big Bang Theory.*

- Non Listed Equipment:** North Dakota continues to be the landing spot for new and re-installed equipment from other regions and countries. Keep in mind that all installed products and equipment must be tested and listed for their intended use and environment. If a field evaluation is necessary for a new application, please consult our website for the list of approved testing agencies.

- Inappropriate Installation of Equipment:** Another area that is not related to listing is equipment built for use such as an outdoor or open air skid being installed in non-ventilated structures to protect it from the weather. In oilfield applications this can drastically change the classification of the area in which the skid is now located.

What's wrong with this?

