

ND State Electrical Board
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Find us at
www.ndseb.com

A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

We finished up license renewals and currently have approx. 8,000 apprentice, journeyman, class B & master electricians on record. We still get quite a few returned to us as "undeliverable" so it is very important you keep our office informed of your most current email/ mailing address.

To update you from the last newsletter, the changes to our administrative rules were approved by the Attorney General, Legislative Council and reviewed by the Administrative Rules Committee and will become effective July 1, 2017.

In other legislative news, Senate Bill 2310 was introduced and amended in this most recent session to address NDCC 43-09-05 to revise the \$300 minimum electrical job cost to \$500. The \$500 job cost was determined after reviewing current wiring

certificates in our system around that amount. We found approximately 300 hot tub connections, 350 bathroom remodels, 1,460 wiring of garages and 120 basement wiring jobs were close to that amount so it was decided \$500 would be a good median number. This bill had a 7-0-0 do pass recommendation from the Senate IBL (Industry Business and Labor) Committee and a 10-1-3 do pass recommendation from the House IBL. Both legislative houses unanimously passed the bill and it was signed by the Governor on March 14th.

Because of this law change, (NDCC: 43-09-05) the NDSEB will go through another Administrative Rule change process to change the affected fee schedule. As always, the public hearing notice will be advertised in your local newspapers so take note for the date/time/location where the Board will hear testimony from the public.

The enforcement & exam content of the 2017 NEC and new title 24.1 of the 2017 ND Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards of North Dakota will be July 1st.

I want to close with the following thought: May is Electrical Safety Month so when you're out there be safe plus, when doing a service call in a residence, offer an electrical safety tip of some sort such as adding/testing smoke/heat/carbon dioxide detectors, AFCI's, GFCIs, or adding of tamper proof receptacles to protect young children. Give simple safety tips that a non-electrician type person can comprehend and may not be aware of.

As always, call if you have questions and have a safe and happy summer!

Be safe out there, - James Schmidt

News & Notes from NDSEB for Contractors

A few items for contractors to keep in mind:

Contractor Orientation: As you may know, the Board has been requiring new Master/Class B electricians wanting to engage in the contracting business, or an electrician that may have been in contracting status at one time and is now seeking to go back into contracting and has never been through contractor orientation, to attend a contractor orientation session at the Board's office. At its March 29, 2017 meeting, the N.D. State Electrical Board approved a policy that a business owner or a fiscal representative will also be required to appear with the Master/Class B electrician for contractor orientation.

Under N.D.C.C. §43-09-09.2(2), it states:

1. Except as provided in this section, if an electrical license is required under section 43-09-09 or by local ordinance, a person may not advertise to contract for electrical services without being licensed as or being associated with a class B or master electrician unless that

person intends to contract the electrical services with a licensed electrical contractor.

2. If a person associates with a class B or master electrician under subsection 1 and that association ends, that person is jointly and severally liable for any electrical services contracts entered under that subsection (which includes work performance and corrections).

The Board has had some very good feedback with the contractor orientations. It is designed to not only educate on the Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards of North Dakota, but also gives an opportunity to answer questions that may arise and/or clarify how North Dakota operates versus other states. It also gives us the ability to meet and welcome the electricians we license and promotes communication.

All Electricians . . . please verify that you have in your wallet a current "green" registration/license ID card with an expiration date of:

Apprentice: January 31, 2018
 Journeyman: March 31, 2018

Master: April 30, 2018
 Class B: April 30, 2018

If you are working in North Dakota, and are not currently registered or licensed, you are working illegally. You will need to CEASE & DESIST under the authority of §43-09-23 of the North Dakota Century Code pertaining to doing any electrical work in North Dakota until you are officially registered or licensed.

Verification Requirements: The N.D. State Electrical Board has discovered that some contracting Master/Class B electricians are not verifying during the license renewal period of individuals doing electrical work under their supervision. This process is imperative to assure that all individuals are properly licensed or registered. It will also assure that the apprentices working under your supervision do not lose any hours towards applying to take the Journeyman exam.

You can either obtain a copy of their renewed registration or license card from them or check the status of their renewal on our website. If their information does not appear, they are not currently registered or licensed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. ☺

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ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND YOUR "COMPLIMENTARY" COPY OF THE 2017 NORTH DAKOTA LAWS, RULES AND WIRING STANDARDS

Register Early for NDSEB CEU Classes

Registration is now open for 2017 NDSEB CEU classes across the state. Classes fill up quickly so electricians are encouraged to plan ahead and register early. A few things to note about our CEU classes this year:

- Pre-registration online only is required.
- Lunch is provided and included in the cost.
- You must bring a 2017 NEC book, calculator and pencil to the classes. There is a very limited supply of 2017 NEC code books available at check-in for \$86.00.

- Attendees should arrive between 7:15 and 7:45 a.m. for check-in. All classes begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. (local time).

Register online at www.ndseb.com.

2017 CEU Class Schedule:

- June 8 - Bismarck
- June 9 - Fargo
- June 29 - 2017 NEC Application in the Oil Field - Williston
- July 13 - Dickinson
- July 14 - Williston

August 10 - Devils Lake
August 11 - Jamestown

September 7 - Minot
September 8 - Bismarck

October 12 - Grand Forks
October 13 - Fargo

November 16 - Williston
November 17 - Dickinson

December 7 - Bismarck
December 8 - Minot

January 11, 2018 - Fargo
January 12, 2018 - Grand Forks ☺

Safety Corner: Grounding, Extension Cords & Ladders

Once again it is spring and May is National Electrical Safety month according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on protecting ourselves and the people around us from the hazards of electricity. We all work with electricity as our profession, and also everyone uses it in most aspects of their lives, so we may become complacent about the hazards electricity can present. With that in mind, here are some safety points that everyone can use to remind themselves to be safe while utilizing electricity.

Take time to ensure the grounding is done properly as this is the safety net for all electrical circuits, providing a low impedance path back to the source when there is a fault and causing overcurrent devices to open quickly. When designed and installed correctly, grounding will substantially reduce the risk of an electrical accident or injury to personnel and damage to property. It is vital that all lock nuts and set screws are tight, equipment grounding conductors and bonding jumpers are installed where required and properly sized to handle the fault, and the correct fasteners are used to make the connections between different components. Remember that current will flow on all paths that are available to it. We want to keep it on the path we intended to avoid consequences

to anyone who may come into contact with electrical equipment.

Ground fault circuit interrupters have provided a safe and reliable method to prevent electric shock to personnel for many years, but it is important to be sure that the devices are functioning properly. Regular testing of permanent and portable GFCI devices will assure that if the protection is needed it will function properly.

Extension cords need to be checked on a regular basis to make sure the prongs and ends are not loose or missing, and the jacket is not damaged, and be sure the cord is rated for the load and of an appropriate length for the job.

Power tools should be in good working order, with bits and blades sharp and undamaged, cords complete and undamaged, and plugged into a GFCI device for operator safety.

Ladders are not electrical equipment, but since most electricians use one every day I'll add a few comments about ladder

safety as well. Before you use a ladder check it to be sure it is good working condition, look for broken rungs or feet and loose or missing parts, and be sure it is rated for the weight of the user and any tools or other materials you will be carrying. Make sure the ladder is properly set up and firmly placed on a hard level surface, with no wet or slippery material at the base of the ladder that could cause the ladder or the user to slip while going up or down. Be sure to choose the appropriate size ladder to accomplish the job you are doing, tie or secure the ladder when needed, and do not stand on the top step!

There are many more areas we could discuss. These are just a few suggestions, but please remember that everyone needs to take charge of their own safety. You need to be your own safety manager! ☺

- Scott Halle, Training & Compliance Administrator



A Message from the Director of Inspections

Spring is here!! May is National Electrical Safety month so here are some safety tips that might help us all out.

I am going to focus a little bit on farm and oil industry, and start out by reminding you all that North Dakota requires: all wiring materials and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to safeguard life and property.

We have a lot of products coming into our state, or being built in our state that do not meet these requirements such as air compressors, control cabinets, light fixtures, lighting systems and many other products that by being

installed or hooked up may lead to personal injury, fire or worse!

Remember when installing new services whether at a bin site, new farm shop or on an oil site, make sure to do your available fault current calculation and verify all equipment installed is rated accordingly. Take a look at NEC 110.24 for the requirements of this label. Also look at NEC 230.95 which requires GFP for service over 150 volts to ground and 1000 amps or more, and NEC 240.87 for arc energy reduction.

New services are often found mounted to the side of a bin, mounted to a skid frame, or mounted on a metal pump stand. Make sure all the grounding and bonding is complete to

help avoid electrical shocks and also any unwanted trips back to install a few lugs and a chunk of wire. Take a look at NEC 250.104, and also follow NEC 250.96. NEC Art 250 is always a good place to start for ALL electrical installations!

In agriculture and oil locations, make sure you know what type of area, or classification of the area that you are working in is, and talk to the owners before you begin. If you go wire a cold storage building and we show up to do our inspection and it is full of straw or hay bales or housing farm animals, you may have some NEC 547 issues to deal with!

Also, on the oil sites, ask what else may be placed on the site at a later date. If a containment area is installed where you are working after you begin, the classification might go from no classification to a Class I Division I area and you will have a costly correction in front of you.

Last but not least, certificates. What does a wiring certificate have to do with safety? Imagine you wire a bathroom without taking out a wiring certificate, and 8 months later someone gets electrocuted because of a light in the shower that you did not install? If we have a certificate, we can verify what work you did, and that it was code compliant and safe at the time of inspection. Anything done after that date, we cannot verify.

Remember to include all electrical labor and materials for a job cost on your wiring certificates. This is to include lighting allowances and owner supplied material as well.

Hope you all have a busy and safe summer!! ☺

-- Doug Grinde

Making A Connection:

Board Member Ben Koppelman

Ben Koppelman has served on the NDSEB since 2008. Originally from West Fargo, he attended NDSU for Construction Management and owns a general contracting company called Vision Construction.

Ben and his wife Julie have a 14 year-old daughter named Madison and a 10 year-old son named Reagan. They live in West Fargo.

Why did you want to serve on the Board? *I joined the Board with the intent of representing the citizens of ND. I have always tried to be part of positive change.*

What is your favorite part of serving on the Board? *I enjoy the code making process and always try to guard against excess regulations.*

What's the hardest part of serving on the Board? *Finding a balance between the need for regulation and the desire to allow freedom and the free market to govern wiring and licensing practices.*

What's the biggest challenge you see facing the Board currently?

Transitioning staff to post oil boom era levels while still offering our contractors a good level of service from the board.

What are your hobbies? *I enjoy fishing and hunting, as well as playing golf and going skiing.*

Do you serve on any other Boards or volunteer in other capacities? *I serve in the ND House of Representatives as well as am a Board Member of the Valley Christian Leadership Assoc.*

Do you have any advice for new electricians in the state? *Protect your license because it is your livelihood. Pay attention to the details, because they are what matter.* ☺

