



Connections

Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

NDSEB CEU CLASSES

The NDSEB CEU classes will be opening registration for all our 2025-26 classes soon. The topics will be a review of NEC Chapter 6 covering special equipment, and discussion of common corrections issued by our inspectors.

May 2025
May 29: Bismarck
May 30: Fargo

July 2025
July 10: Dickinson
July 11: Williston

August 2025
Aug 7: Jamestown
Aug 8: Devils Lake

September 2025
Sept 11: Bismarck
Sept 12: Minot

October 2025
Oct 2: Fargo
Oct 3: Grand Forks

November 2025
Nov 13: Williston
Nov 14: Dickinson

December 2025
Dec 4: Minot
Dec 5: Bismarck

January 2026
Jan 8: Grand Forks
Jan 9: Fargo



CHRIS EKEN, DISTRICT 12 INSPECTOR

Originally from Portland, ND, Chris attended Northland Community & Technical College and worked as a maintenance electrician before working as an Electrical Inspector for the City of Grand Forks for 10-1/2 years. He has also been a part time instructor for the JATC for 12 years and sat on the Advisory board for NCTC for 10 years. He has been married to his wife Katie for 15 years and has two daughters, Sydney & Hallie and two dogs, Missy & Wilbur.

- What is your favorite part of your job?** *Getting out and seeing different projects; meeting people out in the field.*
- What are your hobbies?** *Hunting, fishing, hanging out at the lake with family and friends, curling, and watching my girls play softball.*
- What's your favorite TV show?** *Currently it would be Severance.*
- The best thing about North Dakota?** *The people and the outdoors.*
- The best movie of all time?** *Interstellar.*
- What do you like on your pizza?** *Canadian bacon and...pineapple.*

A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well! We want to welcome aboard Chris Eken to the State Electrical Board. He was formerly with the City of Grand Forks.

Chris will be our new district 12 inspector which covers Cavalier, Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Steele and Trail counties. You can go to our website to check out the revised district map as we made a few district boundary changes. Our workload is still steadily increasing and we will need to place more inspectors across the state which will likely be later this year.

At the recent board meeting, it was discovered that some contractors have not been honest about stating job costs and completing correction violations. A reminder, when a contractor submits corrections are completed, that is you, under oath on a legal document, stating corrections are completed. If the corrections are not completed, you are putting the property owner, unknowingly to them, at risk and if the board finds out about it, you are putting your electrical license at risk. I don't think you want to be in that position so if it's a matter of needing more time to complete correction violations, just get a hold of the inspector to get an extension if feasible.

We continue to pursue reciprocities with states that have similar laws and rules to North Dakota but have no new agreements to report.

I mentioned this in earlier newsletters that we were approached last May about

possibly adding to our workload of performing inspections on conveyance equipment which would be passenger elevators, escalators, dumb waiters etc. Agriculture areas such as grain elevators, one- & two-family dwellings, wind towers and industrial locations would be exempt. To date the legislature passed Senate Bill 2336 and it is currently in the House and will be voted on the house chambers any day. The House Industry, Business and Labor committee did give it a Do Pass, so we'll see what the House Chamber does with it. If this passes and the Governor signs, our office will be seeking an elevator mechanic who will oversee that newly created division of the ND State Electrical Board. There will be more to come on this subject as it flows through the legislature.

I appreciate the efforts of the contractors and other interested parties in the electrical industry that have voiced their opinions with legislators on various proposed legislative bills that would affect the electrical industry in North Dakota. The legislators truly want to hear from their constituents.

The education committee is busy reviewing applications for more related training applicants and applications for Professional Electrician Apprentice Program (PEAP). As stated in previous newsletters, the PEAP program is an avenue for apprentices that already have 8,000 hours of NDSEB registered apprenticeship time logged but do not have the required electrical education. If this is the case, the apprentice can acquire through a board approved PEAP

program, the required education by working an additional 2 years or 4,000 hours while attending an approved PEAP program earning a minimum of 186 hours each year (372 hours total) of classroom education hours and receive an electrical education completion certificate. To avoid this situation of an apprentice missing education by the time they get their time in, I urge the licensed electricians to strongly encourage any apprentice that does not have education, to get into a program immediately so they don't end up at the 8,000-hour experience point with no education. It's not a good thing.

Keep an eye on our website for more apprentice education information as your apprentices need to either have a 2 year degree or you have them enrolled in one of the NDSEB approved apprenticeship programs which that list can be found on our website at <https://www.ndseb.com/apprentice-education/approved-apprenticeship-related-training-programs-and-colleges/>.

Check out our website often for new information: www.ndseb.com

I hope you had a good winter; let's all look forward to having a great year!!

I wish you enough,
James Schmidt

COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS

As we see correction reports being generated every day, we feel it would be a good idea to quickly discuss the most common code corrections so you can try and avoid being issued one and have a compliant installation the first time. Coming in at number 1 is labeling. There are several places within the code that requires labeling for numerous types of installations. Available fault current labeling, sub panel feeds, disconnect labeling, emergency disconnect labeling and heat trace labeling are just a few. Please be sure all labeling requirements are met before leaving the job.

Another common violation during rough-in inspection is proper coverage for heat alarms within a garage. You need to check the documentation that comes with the detector, and it will provide you with the maximum coverage allowed by the detector. Many large garages may need an additional alarm, especially if there are high ceilings in the garage.

Equipment Listings. Mostly prevalent in the oil field we do still see this elsewhere throughout the state. Remember "all wiring materials and equipment shall be listed". If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact your inspector. This does include equipment your customers may want you to hook up so please keep that in mind while performing the work. Equipment can be anything from a transformer to a lathe machine.

With the new 2023 NEC requirements be sure you are aware of the surge protection provisions and that a CO2 alarm is required on every habitable level of a dwelling unit where a fuel-fired appliance is installed or has an attached garage.

“Electricians: turning darkness into light with a flick of a switch.”

NEWS & NOTES FROM NDSEB

MASTER, CLASS B & POWER LIMITED ELECTRICIAN LICENSES WILL EXPIRE ON APRIL 30: Below are a few reminders and tips to make renewal of your license before the end of April go a little smoother.

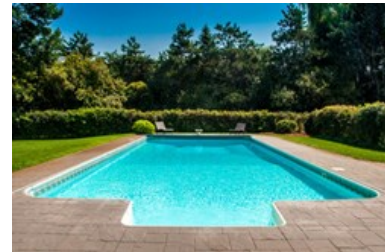
- If your license is in contracting status, the following item(s) could have your license on hold and prevent you from renewing:
 - Expired Certificate of Liability of Insurance
 - Past Due Invoice(s)
 - Past Due Correction(s)
 - Non-Response to Start-Up Certificate Audit Letter for Certificates over 1 Year Old
- If you have already renewed your journeyman license and only had eight (8) hours of continuing education on file; you will need to contact our office so we may add those hours back in for you to renew your master or class B license.
- The board requires proof of continuing education completion to come from the provider. We do not accept individual completion certificates.
- Please allow sufficient time for the provider to submit the roster to our office and for us to enter the hours.
- Continuing education credits will not be given for attending the same continuing education class more than once in a code cycle (example: same sponsor, same title and same class approval number).

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POOL INSTALLATIONS

We have seen a rise in the number of pool installations and inspections around the state in the last couple years so I thought this would be a good time for a refresher on just a couple of the major installation requirements as found in NEC 680. You will also have to pay close attention to NEC 250 parts V, VI and VII for some of the grounding and bonding requirements. While most of the requirements for permanently installed pools focus on keeping electricity separated from water and people, many of the requirements address eliminating differences of potential (voltage) between metallic objects. This is done by bonding all metal parts in the vicinity of a swimming pool and NEC 680.26 lists all the pool parts that are required to be bonded together using a copper conductor not smaller than a #8. This would be a great place to take pictures of the Equal Potential Bonding and the connections just in case the concrete is installed before an inspector gets there. GFCI protection is required for all pool motors rated 60 amps or less regardless of cord connected or direct wired. At least 1 general purpose GFCI receptacle shall be installed at least 6 feet from inside walls of the pool and a Maintenance Disconnect shall be installed not less than 5 feet horizontally from the inside walls of the pool. Wiring a pool is an installation that you may not encounter very often, but if you read through NEC 680 and contact your inspector for clarification on any questions you might have, everything should go well at the final inspection.

Have a safe summer!



IDENTIFICATIONS CARDS: Per the ND Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards 24.1-03-01-01 (3) The board issues an identification card to currently licensed and registered electricians. This identification card, along with a government-issued picture identification card, shall be in the possession of the electrician when doing electrical work.

After renewing your license, getting a new license issued, or registering as an apprentice make sure you receive your identification card. If the card hasn't arrived in a timely manner, please call the office. As the license holder you will need to be the one to call regarding your identification card. Please note if an identification card is returned to our office, we try to call the individual, so make sure to check your voicemail and missed calls.

