

2026 NEC

As you all know, every three years a new edition of the National Electrical Code is issued and the 2026 NEC was issued by the National Fire Protection Association electronically through their Link platform on September 9th, 2025, with the printed books to be available in October according to their website. The code is updated every three years to keep it current with new and evolving technologies and to utilize improved installation and safety practices to protect people and property from electrical hazards. As electricians it is important to keep up with changes in code and technology to be as efficient and knowledgeable as possible, so please take advantage of learning opportunities that are available to you whenever possible.

With the new edition of the NEC available there will soon be many providers offering continuing education classes based on the 2026 edition, so take advantage of any opportunities that present themselves for you to learn about the changes. By knowing what is coming you can be better prepared for future success in your business ventures and plan for any needed changes in your practices.

ZACH PAETZ, DISTRICT 11 INSPECTOR



Originally from Beulah, ND. Zach started working as an electrician right out of high school. He got married to his wife Kayleen in 2009 and together they have two children ages 18 and 13.

What is your favorite part of your job? Seeing the wide variety of electrical projects.

What project are you currently working on? The new women's prison is just starting to get underway and the housing market is strong in Mandan.

What are your hobbies? Hobbies come and go as we age, but currently I enjoy fishing, hunting, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and long range shooting (PRS).

The best thing about North Dakota is? I love the changing of the seasons especially spring and fall. I could do without winter I think.

What would be your dream vacation? A trip to New Zealand with a stop in Fiji for a couple of days.

The best movie of all time is? Too many to pick from but I love watching "My Name is Nobody".

A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well!

Our office was notified that Jesse Larson was appointed by Governor Armstrong

to a newly created board position as the elevator mechanic member for the State Electrical Board. During the last legislative session, Mr. Larson was part of the team that aided in the passage of Senate Bill 2336 for the electrical board to start inspecting the operation of passenger conveyance equipment which includes passenger elevators, dumb waiters, escalators, freight elevators and other equipment of this nature. This will be an additional line of responsibilities for the NDSEB. The new inspection process will be implemented over the next few years. Agriculture areas such as grain elevators, one-two family dwellings, wind towers and industrial locations would be exempt. Next the NDSEB will be seeking an elevator mechanic who will oversee that newly created division of the ND State Electrical Board and there will be more to come on this subject as the process progresses. Various situations have arisen over the past year where contractors were not being

truthful about their job costs and were not completing correction violations. The results were not favorable for the contractors in such cases the board revoked the contractors master license which resulted in the person unable to run their own business anymore. Keep in mind, the contractor shall maintain all job-related records for a minimum of four years and shall permit the board to examine and copy all such records as requested. So, words to the wiser, be honest about job costs and complete any correction violations you may have because you are only cheating your customer as they've paid you to perform a job to code standards. The board does not relish reprimanding contractors in this way, but when the situation arises, they do take appropriate action.

Scott Halle is in full swing with presenting the NDSEB CEU classes which are filling up fast so go to our website to sign up!

The board expended some funds for the inspectors to form a North Dakota Electrical Inspection Section (EIS) which is organized by NFPA. The ND-EIS will be a non-profit organization, similar to the ND-IAEI organization. The ND-EIS will, in the future, hold training sessions for your CEU and other events as it gets off the ground.

We'll keep you informed as we move forward with this new organization.

The education committee recommended to the board a one-year provisional approval for Bismarck State College on fine tuning a 2-year electrical AAS degree program. The board did give the provisional one-year approval and BSC's program will be reviewed again next year.

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:

electric@nd.gov or

Mail to: ND State Electrical Board
PO Box 7335
Bismarck, ND 58507-7335

I hope you had a great summer, and we are hoping for a long fall season! ☺

I wish you enough,
James Schmidt



CONTRACTING APPLICANTS

If you plan on starting an electrical contracting business, please be aware of the submittal requirements needed to complete the application process. Whether you just passed your master's exam, you reciprocated your master's license or are switching from non-contracting to contracting the submittal requirements for contracting are the same.

Your first step should be to get your business registered with the North Dakota Secretary of States office AND obtain a contractor's license, both need to be completed. Step 2, is to complete the Electrical Contracting application and an E-Cert application, both of which are available on our website. Step 3, is get a certificate of liability insurance, have the North Dakota State Electrical board as the certificate holder so we receive an updated copy once it has expired and a new one has been issued. After these steps have been completed we will schedule your contractor orientation phone call. Orientation is an important step so you will be familiarized with the process of contracting and the requirements and responsibilities that come with it. We have had situations where only some of the paperwork has been submitted and the applicant did not let us know they did not wish to pursue any further so please communicate with us if this is the case. Our turnaround time for processing your paperwork and scheduling the orientation is quick and simple if we receive the proper paperwork in a timely manner.



"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile." — William Cullen Bryant

SURGE PROTECTION

Surge Protective Devices (SPD) are intended to limit the maximum amount of transient voltage surges on power lines to specified values. They are not intended to function as lightning arresters. SPD's must be listed and shall be marked with the short-circuit current rating and shall be sized to the available fault current so here is another requirement for you to perform an available fault current calculation.

There are 4 types of SPD's:

Type 1 SPD are normally installed on the supply side of the service disconnect but can be installed on the load side of the service as per NEC 242.13(A)(2) & NEC 242.14.

Type 2 SPD must be connected to the load side of the service disconnect as per NEC 242.14.

Type 3 SPD may be installed on the load side of a branch circuit overcurrent device.

Type 4 SPD are installed only in equipment and must be installed by the equipment manufacturer.

The new requirement for Surge Protection for feeders in the 2023 NEC, Art. 215.18 has raised the question: Where do I install my SPD, at the service disconnect or at the feeder panel or at both locations? To help you out, there is an exception in our Laws, Rules and Wiring Standards of North Dakota 24.1-06-02.15 (page 46) that states you are not required to install an SPD on the feeder in the occupancies listed in NEC 215.18, but you are still required to install an SPD at one of the 3 options: #1 = service / #2 = on the feeders / or #3 = at both locations, the choice is yours as to where you install them.

NEWS & NOTES FROM NDSEB

START-UP CERTIFICATE AUDIT: NDSEB will be conducting its annual audit of electrical certificates in start-up status issued over one (1) year ago (prior to 09/30/24).

A letter and report of certificates over one (1) year old will be mailed in October of 2025 requesting the status for each certificate listed. We ask that you respond to our office, not your inspector, via email to electric@nd.gov with a status for each wiring certificate by the deadline.

Keep in mind, certificates with a job cost of \$20,000 or less are only valid twelve (12) months from the original filing date. If required, submit the final paperwork and fees up to the percentage complete and file a new wiring certificate for all the unfinished work.

Certificates that are still in progress with a job cost greater than \$20,000, provide a percentage of completion and the estimated job cost.

Certificates that are within 15 days of completion, use of occupancy, whichever is first, submit the final paperwork and fees.

UPDATED ADDRESS ON RECORD: If you have recently moved or changed your mailing address, please let our office know as soon as possible. We mail out a variety of reminders and correspondence and it is imperative you have an updated address on record with our office to ensure receipt of our mailers. To update your address you may call our office, email the information to electric@nd.gov or you may update your address on our website, www.ndseb.com, Forms, #20, Personal Information Change.

HELPFUL REMINDERS:

- NDSEB licenses individuals, not the business.
- Contracting Master/Class B/Power Limited Electrician's are responsible for wiring certificates issued to them.
- Do not submit correction reports until all corrections have been completed. If you need an extension, contact NDSEB before the correction is past due.
- It is a violation if the Master/Class B/Power Limited Electrician sign a correction without them being completed
- Certificates with a job cost of \$20,000 or less are only valid for 1 year from the start date.
- Contracting Master/Class B/Power Limited Electricians are required to contact the NDSEB office before leaving their contracting firm or retiring.
- The ratio for apprentice electricians is 3 to 1 licensed individual and under direct supervision of them.
- Eight (8) hours of continuing education must be completed before renewal. Providers have up to 15 days to get the hours to NDSEB. Allow us time to process the hours.
- All registration and license renewals are due before the following dates:
 - Apprentice/Power Limited Apprentice - January 31st
 - Journeyman - March 31st
 - Master/Class B/Power Limited Electrician - April 30th
- Make sure to always have your electrician's ID card and a photo ID on you while doing electrical work.