



# MEA News

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**Industry Report**



Karen Maine  
 President of MEA's  
 Board of Directors

**90<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference (Aug 10-11)**

Please join me at the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference next month in Breezy Point. The Electrical Association will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is an incredible milestone to think that this organization has

survived the ups and downs of the construction industry throughout 9 decades and continues to stay relevant and thriving. A lot has changed and evolved and we are excited to take a walk down memory lane as well as continue to build our future and where the industry and association plan to go from here.

Pack up the whole family and head up to Breezy on Friday afternoon for the golf tournament. We will hold challenges throughout the course with prize giveaways—followed by an evening of Rolle Bolle and a Hospitality Suite filled with MEA memorabilia.

Workforce, Government Action, Education and Membership will be meeting on Saturday morning. Committee members—keep your eyes peeled for your agendas so you can be prepared. We will be exploring membership apps, engagement scoring, on-demand training, prevailing wage initiatives and the labor shortage. We need your input and guidance to steer the organization.\*

Our lunch speaker has shaped the theme for the entire conference. Holly Hoffman was on the hit reality show *Survivor* in 2010. The way that she overcame challenges in the wilderness is how she will inspire you as a business leader. As we reflect back



on how the association has transformed over the last 90

years, Holly will motivate us to strive forward throughout the next 90. Same within your businesses. Her story is remarkable and I am looking forward to her addressing our group. See Holly's video message to MEA on our website!

[www.electricalassociation.com/conferences](http://www.electricalassociation.com/conferences)

The Board meeting will round out the afternoon with a presentation from our friends and partners at Federated on "Gaining a Competitive Advantage through Bonding." We are honored to have our Regional Marketing Manager, Pat Swetala, joining us as well as our Account Executive, Connor Odykirk. Federated has been an instrumental part of the organizational success and prosperity over the last 60 out of 90 years. We will then head to the Breezy Belle on Pelican Lake for dinner and an evening of relaxation with family, friends and colleagues. The Belle will dock so we can all watch the iconic Elvis Performance.

Sunday can be a day of travel or an extended vacation. Let's all wish for great weather. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

*\*If you are not officially on a committee and would like to be, contact Clara for details (612-827-6117).*

*(Read more on page 6)*



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Clara DeRosier, Executive Director

## Power into the Future

### Build Your Workforce

One of the strategic initiatives that was put forth by the Electrical Association back in 2016 regarded workforce development. The Committee that was formed has done an enormous amount of work towards this initiative already and being able to serve membership in a new way is incredible. One of the latest partnerships we've established is with a group of associations that has the same goals as ours. At the annual business meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to financially support **Project Build MN**.

Project Build is currently made up of 13 organizations including Housing First MN, Minnesota Builders Exchange, Associated Builders & Contractors and The Builders Group to name a few. By all of these organizations joining forces, we can accomplish more together than as individuals. The Electrical Association will continue to develop the plans and resources that the Workforce Development Committee has begun with this partnership being another way for us to support the industry and ensure awareness is occurring around the construction careers.

Project Build MN currently has 3 committees. I will be sitting on their Marketing Committee, Michelle



Dreier on the Outreach Committee and Jeff Keljik serving on the Education Committee. We will share ideas and learn from these other organizations.

As we all know, the demand for trade workers is at an all-time high. The time to build is now. At the Electrical Association, we are thinking about the skilled labor shortage every day and making connections to help you all succeed. Stay tuned for more on Project Build and take a look at their website: [www.projectbuildmn.org](http://www.projectbuildmn.org)

Also, with many of the connections that we have been making on your behalf, we receive resumes of individuals looking for work in the electrical industry! We compile these and send them out to our members on a regular basis. Please let us know if you would like further information on this initiative.



If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please call me.

I am here to help you.

(612) 827-6117 • (800) 829-6117  
cderosier@electricalassociation.com

### Federated Insurance— Leveraging the New Flat 21% Tax Bracket for C-Corporations

Tax rates for C-Corporations are at an all-time low. Since the tax tide frequently changes, now might be a good opportunity to take advantage of these lower tax rates before they go back up.

Previously, C-Corp were taxed at up to 39% (federal). Some may have moved this higher taxed income into lower individual tax brackets by increasing the owners' salaries, paying bonuses and paying higher rent on personally owned business real estate.

Now, the C-Corp is in a 21% bracket no matter how much income it generates. The employee/shareholders, however, could be in a personal federal tax bracket as high as 40.8%. A bonus could lead to higher overall tax.

#### Cross-Purchase Funding

Life insurance funding for a cross-purchase buy-sell agreement has traditionally been done with bonuses paid to the shareholders. This may no longer be advised. In addition to higher individual tax rates, the bonus may be subject to FICA and other taxes that both the business and employee must pay.

Consider a dividend instead of the bonus. While a dividend is not tax deductible to the business, the shareholder is taxed at 0%-20% (depending on other income), rather than at his or her marginal tax rate. Additionally, there are no FICA or other payroll taxes on dividends. The dividend's "double taxation" (once at the corp level and again at the shareholder level) maybe less than the taxation of a bonus.

#### Accumulated Earning Tax

Businesses have tended to accumulate earnings inside the company in an effort to avoid the double taxation of a dividend to the shareholders. Now might be the time to pay out some of the accumulated earnings while corporate tax rates are low and dividends are taxed at a favorable rate.

#### Split Dollar Life Insurance

If a C-Corp shareholder needs personal life insurance, consider an endorsement split dollar arrangement. Premiums on a company-owned policy are paid with corporate after-tax (21%) dollars and the cash accumulation in these policies can be used to fund a non-qualified retirement plan or other benefit plan for the owners. The plan can also provide some or all of the death benefit to the owner's beneficiary income tax free.

Talk to your attorney and/or CPA for information about how the new corporate tax rate might impact you and your business based on your individual situation.



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## Government

### Legislative Update

Summary of major bills of interest to MEA members:

Bill Strusinski,  
MEA Government  
Affairs Representative

**Pathway to licensure:** The most significant casualty of the session was MEA's "pathway to licensure" bill. Despite the great work put

forth by our chief authors Senator Andrew Lang and Representative Jeff Howe, our proposal did not pass. Significant opposition and the lack of support from DLI and the Governor made its failure inevitable. This bill was intended to resolve the regulatory problems of using temporary workers.

**Bonding Bill:** Governor Dayton signed a \$1.5B Capital Improvement/Bonding bill into law. Senator Senjem called it a "jobs, jobs, jobs bill".

**Solar Installers ratios:** Proposed to allow journeyworker electrical solar installers to supervise up to 5 registered unlicensed installers. This bill, opposed by the unions and the DLI, failed to pass.

**Rebates prohibited:** A bill relating to insurance prohibiting rebates was passed. The bill requires residential contractors to notify customers that offering rebates and paying a home owners deductible on an insurance claim as an incentive to get a contract is illegal.

**Energy Improvement program:** The energy improvements program administered by the Department of Commerce was modified to provide more consumer protections and clean energy loans for residential and commercial property owners. The bill also specifies that the commercial PACE loan program must serve a public purpose and not primarily be for the benefit of private entities. PACE loans are assessed on the property owner's property taxes and repaid over time. Contractors who want to participate in these programs must be licensed by DLI as a residential building contractor or residential remodeler. This bill became law and does provide opportunities for MEA contractors.

**Construction Code Rules:** Legislation was advanced that would require the Department of Labor and Industry to inform the legislature of any rule that would add \$1,000 or more to the cost of construction of a residence. The legislature would then have the option of cancelling the rule. Most organizations involved in Code development oppose this bill and prefer that professionals (agency and industry) make such determinations as opposed to leaving the decision to political interpretation. Because of opposition by the DLI, and a threatened veto by the Governor, this bill did not pass.

**Duty to Defend:** Legislation that would prohibit general contractors from requiring subs to pay for defending claims against the general failed to pass this session.

**Retainage:** Legislation put forth by the Subcontractors Association and supported by MEA and NECA failed to pass. This bill would have required all units of government to release retained funds within 90 days and reduce the overall amount retained.

**Workers comp and Unemployment Insurance:** Legislation passed that is technical in nature but does address several administrative glitches in



## Compliance

### Form I-9 Compliance Updates

Tom Revnew  
Attorney  
Seaton Peters Revnew

Tom is a Shareholder at Seaton, Peters & Revnew, P.A., a firm representing employers in a full range of employment law issues and litigation in Minneapolis.

As expected, I-9 audits have increased under the Trump Administration. Since October 2017, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has conducted over 2,000 I-9 audits, nearly double the number from the previous fiscal year. With the increased enforcement efforts, it is critical employers conduct an I-9 internal audit. Employers should make sure to pay particular attention to the following when conducting an internal audit and developing company practices.

As of September 2017, employers must exclusively use the new Form I-9 with a revision date of 07/17/17. While the form largely remained the same, the main revisions to the form concern the list of acceptable employment authorization documents. For example, under the new Form I-9, employers may now accept the Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240) as an acceptable document under List C. When authorizing documents, it is important to remember that an employer cannot accept a restricted social security card without another supporting document, such as a visa or green card. Further, employers should verify the correct authorizing agency is listed on the seal on the card. Additionally, employers must not accept expired documents or print outs stating a social security card has been ordered.

On the first day of employment, the employee must complete section one. The employer may have the employee complete the section earlier, after a job has been offered and accepted, even if the employee has not started working yet. The employer must complete the rest of the form by the employee's third day of employment. To avoid technical violations, employers should not be sloppy or abbreviate words, including the corporate name and address, when filling out the the I-9. For example, words such as boulevard, avenue, and corporation should be spelled out, not abbrevi-

ated. Additionally, employers should verify the employee has filled out the correct information in section one. Any errors due to an employee's mistakes will count as an employer technical violation. Common mistakes include filling in the current date instead of the employee's birth date or vice versa. If errors are found, employers should correct them, but be cautious of how you make the corrections. For example, an employer cannot change an employee's answer, but must make a notation in the margin with the correct information, and then date and initial the correction.

Conducting an internal I-9 audit is the best way to avoid costly technical violations and ensure compliance. If you have questions regarding Form I-9 compliance, please contact Tom Revnew (trevnew@seatonlaw.com or 952-921-4622).



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the system. It clarifies hospital outpatient fees, billing issues, clarifies forms and provides PTSD coverage for employees in critical emergency service jobs.

**Workforce readiness:** The Omnibus Jobs and Economic Finance bill authorized grants to local partnerships located throughout the state, not to exceed \$100,000 per local partnership grant. Grants can be used to encourage employers to provide on-the-job training opportunities and will encourage people to seek employment in the trades. Other initiatives provide outreach and training to middle school and high schools students throughout the state. This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**Taxes:** The legislature finally reached and passed the Omnibus Tax bill. The primary focus was enacting provisions that will conform Minnesota Tax System and forms to the provisions recently enacted by the Federal Government. Bottom line is to assure that the federal tax cuts get passed on to Minnesotans and the tax forms remain simple. The Commissioner of Revenue

testified that the 2019 Minnesota tax form would be increased to 85 pages if the conformity provisions were not enacted. This would have been an administrative nightmare. This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**Capital Investment:** The legislature passed a major bonding (capital investment) bill. The bill provides over \$1.5B in funding for state and local capital building and road and bridge construction projects.

**Prevailing wage:** Prevailing wage continues to be an important issue amongst contractors and regulators. While no bills of consequence passed this session, the Senate Jobs Committee has committed to conduct a hearing on this issue during the interim, setting the stage for action next session.

MEA Members! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michelle Dreier at the MEA office at (612) 827-6117.

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## You Need to Know

### COMPLIANCE

#### Open Vacancies at the Secretary of State...

Governor's Workforce Development Board needs a Business Member. Apply at <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Position/>

#### Minneapolis Paid Sick Leave Ordinance...

On May 9, the Minnesota District Court upheld the status quo, determining that state law does not preempt the Ordinance that requires employers to provide paid sick leave to employees working within Minneapolis, but the Ordinance cannot be enforced outside the geographic boundaries of the City of Minneapolis. ([www.seatonlaw.com](http://www.seatonlaw.com))

### CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

**Interest-Free Loans for Startups...** Minnesota Innovation Loans for Entrepreneurs accepting loan applications through **July 16**. The MN Dept of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) is accepting loan applications through a new program designed to help early-stage businesses that are developing high-tech products or services in Minnesota. Minnesota Innovation Loans for Entrepreneurs (MILE) is a pilot program that will provide \$20,000-\$50,000 interest-free loans.

Applicants must have a 1-to-1 match from another funder and repay the loan within 4 years, with no payments required in the first year. The program is an initiative of the Minnesota Investment Fund. ([www.mn.gov/deed/newscenter](http://www.mn.gov/deed/newscenter))

### ENERGY

#### Judge rules against Minnesota wind farm...

A judge's recommendation that a proposed wind farm be nixed over turbine noise has drawn a flurry of opposition from the wind-power industry, which fears a chilling effect on development. In a rare move, Administrative Law Judge Schlatter recommended that the Freeborn Wind farm be denied an operating permit, saying the project failed to show it can meet state noise standards. The developer, Invenergy, has objected, saying the judge's interpretation of state noise rules would be "impossible" to meet. (Star Tribune. June 2018)

#### Metropolitan Council, Xcel Energy work to get Council to 100% renewable energy by 2040...

Partnership will also bring more electric buses to the Twin Cities region. Xcel Energy is joining forces with the Metropolitan Council, one of the top 10 electrical consumers in the state, to dramatically increase the Council's use of renewable energy in day-to-day operations. Their partnership focuses on working together to produce and purchase clean, renewable energy and also allow the Council to operate its wastewater and transit systems

exclusively on energy from renewable sources by 2040. ([www.mn.gov/governor/newsroom](http://www.mn.gov/governor/newsroom))

### LABOR & MANAGEMENT

#### Statewide Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey...

There are currently 213 openings for construction electricians as of 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2017. This is up from 121 openings 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 2017. This equates to a 2% job vacancy rate. 5% of these openings are part time. 22% require post-secondary education. 56% require greater than 1 year of experience. 94% require a certificate or license. The median wage offer is \$20.42. (MN DEED)

### RECALL NOTICES

#### GE Issues Recall on LED Tube Lamps Sold Through Lowes...

GE Lighting issued a recall regarding LED tube lamps sold in two-packs through Lowe's stores nationwide. The pins on one end of the Cool White Universal T8/T12 LED tube lamps can be energized during installation or removal, posing electric shock and electrocution hazards. ([www.ecmweb.com](http://www.ecmweb.com))

#### Honeywell Issues Hard Hat Recall...

Honeywell Safety Products has issued a voluntary recall of 82,500 hard hats, stating that the equipment may provide insufficient protection from impact. According to the April 24 recall notice, Fibre Metal E2 Cap and North Peak A79 models are affected. The Fibre Metal E2 hard hats have manufacture dates of April 2016, May 2016, Dec 2017 or Jan 2018. The affected North Peak A79 equipment has a No. 4 mold identification and was manufactured between April 2016 and Jan 2018. ID can be found on the underside of the hat brim. ([www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com](http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com))

#### UL Warns of Counterfeit UL Marks on Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters...

UL has issued a notification that the GFCI identified below bears a counterfeit UL Mark for the US and Canada. These GFCIs have not been evaluated by UL to the appropriate Standards for Safety and it is unknown if they comply with any safety requirements. Although these counterfeit GFCIs are marked with model designation TGMT20 and have the UL label, the GFCIs were not manufactured by Zhejiang Trimone Co. Ltd. Name of Product: GFCI Model TGMT20 Identification on the Product: The product is marked with a counterfeit UL Listing Mark and the following: E229322

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## TRACK USAGE

- StockNOW operates in real-time and allows users the ability to track inventory usage at the point of consumption.





# Electrical Association 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

## ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

- An Afternoon on the Links!
  - Meet, Mingle, and Reconnect with Other Electrical Contractors from Around the State!
- Friday, Aug 10 (tee times begin at 12:40pm)

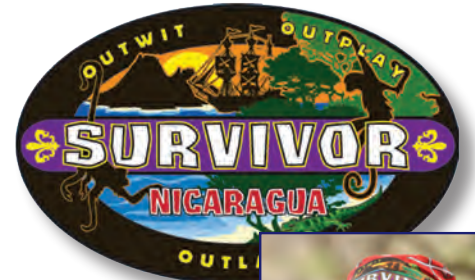


## 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY BASH / CLASSIC ROLLE BOLLE TOURNAMENT

- Hospitality Suite with Walkout to Lawn for Rolle Bolle & Bonfire Pit for Smores
  - MEA Memorabilia Displayed for All to Reminisce
- Friday, Aug 10 (4:00pm)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SURVIVOR CAST MEMBER

- Holly Hoffman, Reality Show *Survivor* contestant 2010
  - ***MEA has Survived 90 Years through all the Highs and Lows of the Construction Industry... How Can We Continue to Survive and Succeed through the next 90 Years?***
  - Fun for the Whole Family...Holly will bring her torch and we'll have fun taking our pictures with her!
  - See her video message to MEA [www.electricalassociation.com/Conferences](http://www.electricalassociation.com/Conferences)
- Saturday, Aug 11 (11:30am)



## BREEZY BELLE & ELVIS

- Dinner on Pelican Lake
  - Fun Entertainment
- Saturday, Aug 11 (6:00pm)

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Among all the fun...

### OUR BUSINESS

A lot of business can be accomplished too with your guidance! The following committees will meet:

*E-Board • Board of Directors  
Membership • Government Action  
Workforce Development • Education*



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Michelle Dreier  
Executive Manager

## Workforce Compliance

### Preparing for the Customer of Tomorrow... Means Hiring Right Today

Jeff Keljik, Tony Enger and I recently manned a table at the Mini Maker's Faire at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

#### Our participants?

Seventh-graders from schools around the Metro Area. Columbia Heights in particular was well represented.

**Are we looking to hire these children for summer help?** No, we simply want to introduce them to the electrical industry as a possibility before they make the decision to go to college.

**Diversity!** As the population of the U.S. changes, the makeup of our customers changes.

- 40% of Millennials (ages 18 to 34) are people of color
- 50% of the workforce will consist of Millennials by 2020
- 48% of the workforce will be ethnically diverse by 2050

- 5 generations are in the workforce – Gen Z is just entering the workforce at 18 while the last of the Greatest Generation may still be working and healthy at 70

**Customers!** Look at your customer base to see why hiring people from various backgrounds is powerful. Whether it is race, nationality, gender, age or religion—people from the same background as our customers can provide services and communicate in ways that are tailored to the preferences and needs of customers. When our employees educate each other about those differences, we can serve our customers better—and that is a competitive advantage that is harder for competitors to replicate.

**Volunteer!** Please consider volunteering at one of our career events as we continue to partner with community-based organizations to bring our membership diverse talent to add to their workforces.

We have several events happening in October and would welcome membership involvement. Call me at 612-827-6117 to find out more.



Makers Faire (June 1) with Jeff Keljik and Tony Enger at the State Fairgrounds. Not pictured, Michelle Dreier.

## Do you have Unlicensed Electrical Employees?

### Help them Stay in Compliance!

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1

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2

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continuing education annually

3

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hours to the DLI

4

Remind them to renew their  
registration



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## Education Calendar

July							August							September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
29	30	31											30							

### Continuing Education: Classroom



-  Aug 2-3 (8am-5pm) 16 CE  
 2017 NEC Grounding and Bonding 1-4; Motor Installation 1-2; Overcurrent Protection 1-2  
 ST CLOUD, Werner Electric
-  Sept 21-22 (8am-5pm) 16 CE  
 2017 NEC Grounding and Bonding 1-4; Motor Installation 1-2; Overcurrent Protection 1-2  
 DULUTH, Suite Hotel at Waterfront Plaza

- » Both Days—Non-Members Price: \$315, Member: \$290
- » One Day—Non-Members Price: \$185, Member: \$155



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### Continuing Education: Online – Licensed (2 CE)

-  July 24 (6:30-8:30pm) 2017 NEC Branch Circuit, Feeders, and Service Calcs
  -  Aug 1 (6:30-8:30pm) 2017 NEC Special Occupancies, Part 1
- » Two hours—Non-Members Price: \$48, Member: \$42

### Continuing Education: Online – Unlicensed (2 CE)

-  Aug 21 (8:00-10:00am) 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding for Unlic Personnel
  -  Sept 19 (6:30-8:30pm) 2017 Motors & Transformers
- » Two hours—Non-Members Price: \$48, Member: \$42

### Exam Prep Training: Classroom

-  Aug 4-5 (8:00-5:00pm) Edina, Federated Insurance office
- » Non-Members Price: \$530, Member: \$420

Also Available—

#### Exam Prep Pre-Test

55 Questions test your knowledge:  
Are you ready to take the JourneyWorker Exam? Do you need MEA's Prep class?

#### Self-Paced Exam Prep Course

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## CE Requirements

### This is your guide to staying in compliance.

These are the states where MEA's courses are typically approved based on that state's standards. **DOUBLE CHECK** our class website for exact details for the course you are registering for.



#### Minnesota

- Master A, B..... 16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code\*)
  - Journeyman A, B..... 16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code\*)
  - Maintenance ..... 16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code\*)
  - Installer A, B ..... 16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code\*)
  - Power limited tech ..... 16 biennially (4 Code/12 Non-Code\*)
  - Satellite installer ..... 4 biennially (4 Code\*)
  - Unlicensed ..... 2 annually (2 Code\*)
- [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov) \*can take all Code



#### Iowa

- Master A, B..... 18\* every 3-year Code Cycle
  - Residential Master ..... 18\* every 3-year Code Cycle
  - Residential Electrician..... 18\* every 3-year Code Cycle
  - Inactive Master..... 18\* every 3-year Code Cycle
  - Journeyman A, B..... 18\* every 3-year Code Cycle
- <http://iowaelectrical.gov/> \*6 on the most recent Code



#### Montana

- Residential Electrician ..... 16\* per 2-year cycle
  - Journeyman Electrician ..... 16\* per 2-year cycle
  - Master Electrician ..... 16\* per 2-year cycle
- <http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/ele> \*8 Code Update



#### Nebraska

- Electrical Contractor..... 12 each even-numbered yr
  - Journeyman Electrician..... 12 each even-numbered yr
  - Resid. Journeyman Wireman ..... 12 each even-numbered yr
  - Fire Alarm Installer ..... 12 each even-numbered yr
- [www.electrical.nebraska.gov](http://www.electrical.nebraska.gov) \*6 Code; or all Code



#### North Dakota

- Master Electrician..... 8\* annually
  - Journeyman Electrician..... 8\* annually
  - Class B Electrician ..... 8\* annually
- [www.ndseb.com](http://www.ndseb.com) \*4 must be Code



#### South Dakota

- Electrical Inspector ..... 16\* even-numbered years
  - Electrical Contractor ..... 16\* even-numbered years
  - Journeyman Electrician..... 16\* even-numbered years
  - Class B Electrician..... 16\* even-numbered years
  - Apprentice Electrician..... 16\* even-numbered years
- <http://dlr.sd.gov/> \*8 must be Code



#### Wisconsin

- Master Electrician ..... 24 every 4 years
  - Residential Master Electrician..... 18 every 4 years
  - Journeyman Electrician..... 24 every 4 years
  - Industrial Journeyman Elect..... 18 every 4 years
  - Residential Journeyman Elect ..... 18 every 4 years
  - Registered Electrician..... 24 annually
- <https://dsps.wi.gov>



#### Wyoming

- Journeyman ..... 16 every 3 yrs
  - Master ..... 16 every 3 yrs
- <http://wsfm.wyo.gov> \*8 must be Code

Note: We are making a good-faith effort to publish the correct requirements for each state. For your protection, please check your state's website listed above.



Quiz on the Code

Store Spaces



- When testing emergency generators and transfer switches a \_\_\_\_\_ must be completed.
  - full load of the generator
  - a written record of the operations
  - minimum of 10 seconds of operation
  - visual check of the exhaust manifold
- For emergency lighting, the code requires the emergency power be transferred from "loss of normal" to "emergency power" within \_\_\_\_\_ seconds.
  - 5
  - 10
  - 15
  - 20
- NEC article 480 deals with storage batteries as used in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - batteries in any unit emergency lighting
  - generator starting batteries
  - UPS systems
  - All of the above.
- A fixture whip may be made of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a re-loc assembly
  - metal clad cable
  - flexible metal conduit
  - Any of the above.
- If you need to pull wire into a device box, the wires should extend at least \_\_\_\_\_ inches beyond the face of the device box.
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 6
- If a conduit passes through a partition, and there are different temperatures on either side of the partition, then \_\_\_\_\_ must be used in the conduit.
  - electrician's tape
  - fiberglass thermal insulation
  - sheet rock filler
  - duct seal

Answers: 1. (b) Ref: 700.3; 2. (b) Ref: 700.12; 3. (d) Ref: 480.1; 4. (d) Ref: 410.117; 5. (b) Ref: 310.14; 6. (d) Ref: 300.7

Toolbox Talks

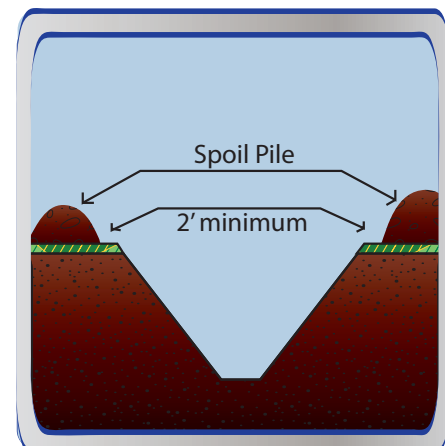
Excavation Safety



- Daily inspections of excavations, the adjacent areas, and protective systems shall be made by a competent person for evidence of a situation that could result in possible cave-ins, failure of protective systems, hazardous atmospheres, or other hazardous conditions.
- Each employee will be protected from cave-ins by a protective system, except when excavations are made entirely in stable rock or excavations are less than 5 ft in depth and examination of the ground by a competent person provides no indication of a potential cave-in.
- Means of egress from trench excavations - A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress shall be

located in trench excavations that are 4 ft or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 ft of lateral travel for employees...

The entire topic can be found on our website under "Membership." [www.electricalassociation.com](http://www.electricalassociation.com)



More information on excavation requirements can be found in OSHA booklet on Trenching and Excavations at: [www.osha.gov/Publications/osh2226.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh2226.pdf)

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Exam-Taking Tip

TAKING THE EXAM!



Chad Kurdi  
Exam Prep Instructor

If you feel you have the time during your exam, it is proven that students who **READ EACH QUESTION THREE TIMES** have higher exam scores.

- First, read the question for basic understanding.**
- Second, set up diagrams and formulas required to reach the correct answer.**
- Third, read the question to answer it.**
- Staying calm and concentrating on each of these three steps gives your brain time to work. It is a discipline that requires practice. Practice it in this class, and you will increase your chance of passing the exam the first time.**



Jeff Keljik  
Director of Education

...and of course, we recommend using MEA's Exam Prep!

- Online Exam Prep Pre-Test
- Online Self-Paced Prep Course
- 16-hr Classroom Prep Course

[www.electricalassociation.com/ExamPrep](http://www.electricalassociation.com/ExamPrep)

Minnesota Chapter IAEI Code Q&A

**Q:** My inspector told me I cannot install a 100-amp main-lug-only sub-panel in a detached garage even though it is fed from a 60-amp breaker at the main panel in the house. I've seen this done before and don't believe it's a code violation.

**A:** First and foremost, remember that no matter what the question, the inspector is always correct. That said, you could gently remind the inspector that while NEC Section 408.36 requires that all panelboards have overcurrent protection, that protection is not required to be an integral part of the panelboard. The overcurrent protection cannot exceed the rating of the panelboard, so providing 60-amp overcurrent protection for a 100-amp rated panelboard is acceptable.



Of course, the 60-amp feeder must be adequate for the load in the garage to comply with 215.3.

Remember that an MLO panelboard in a detached structure without a separate disconnecting means at that building would need to be rated a suitable for use as service equipment, be located nearest the point of entrance and would be limited to 6 circuits.

Submitted by Sam Sampson, IAEI



PRINT and POST in your breakroom!

Find this poster and more at:

[www.electricalassociation.com](http://www.electricalassociation.com) >  
 Resources > MEA News.



## Find Faults Faster

Submitted by Graybar

After you've put the finishing touches on your new panel the last thing you need is for a breaker to trip. It's frustrating. What's causing the trip? Where is it? Have you ever resorted to tearing out drywall just to find the fault?

Well you're in luck, because Square D QO™ and Homeline™ Combination Arc-Fault (CAFI) circuit breakers have **TIME SAVER Diagnostics** built in to help you quickly identify and troubleshoot faults at the push of a button. Simply hold the button on the breaker to determine if you have a ground fault, arc fault or a thermal overload. It's so easy that even the homeowner can diagnose the problem. This helps you save money by reducing troubleshooting time, preventing additional service calls and providing circuit information at the touch of a button.

### How to Use TIME SAVER Diagnostics

The diagnostics are easy to use. Simply turn off the circuit breaker, hold down the Push-To-Test button and turn the circuit breaker back on.

If the breaker:

- Trips immediately - you have a ground fault
- Trips in 2 seconds - arc fault
- Trips after 5 seconds - thermal overload or short circuit

That's it. No extra tools needed. You have many choices when it comes to residential products, but when you consider your total cost of install, Square D breakers and load centers are a no-brainer. At Graybar we have the products you need with the support you need around the clock to help you make your jobs more profitable. We're here when you need us at the counter, online or through our extended customer service hours. No matter how you like to conduct business, Graybar has you covered.

Give your local sales representative a call at 1-800-GRAYBAR and ask about how Square D's residential products like plug-on neutral load centers with Qwik-Grip and plug-on neutral dual function circuit breakers can help improve your total cost of install, get to your next job faster and improve your bottom line.



# Get the Job Done Faster!



[graybar.com](http://graybar.com)

1-800-GRAYBAR

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## New Products

### RAB LIGHTING – TROFFER RETROFIT

The RAB Troffer Retrofit can be installed in under 3 minutes by 1 person. High efficacy, up to 142 lm/W. Available in 3 sizes and 4 wattages: 2x2 (19W and 29W), 1x4 (19W and 29W), and 2x4 (39W and 49W). Frosted polycarbonate lens provides a uniform distribution and reduces glare. 0-10V dimming standard on all models. (Rouzer)



### STELPRO – MAESTRO

Orchestrate your comfort Maestro, Stelpro's most advanced smart thermostat to date. Gives you full control over your comfort. Thanks to its features and user-friendly mobile interface, you can now manage and personalize your home's heating easily and save on your electricity bill. Designed, manufactured and tested in North America, Maestro is perfectly suited to our rigorous conditions and the zone heating systems widely used here. (Rouzer)



### GREENLEE – CS-5000

Superior sensitivity and functionality providing accurate tracing and locating. Auto Gain Option – Automatically seeks the strongest signal identifying the target breaker, improving locating accuracy. Supports transmitter-to-receiver distances up to 4 miles for closed circuit tracing. Rated for 600VAC/DC. Works on de-energized circuits, no need to have to have the power on. Works on live circuits without disrupting service (submitted by Rouzer)



### BRIDGEPORT – Mighty-Align SLP Series Slip

Mighty-Align® SLP Series Slip 3/4" EMT Connectors. No more wasting time with short conduit cuts. Used to connect EMT to an enclosure in tight or limited access applications. Simply slide fitting onto conduit to the end stop, position EMT, and then slide the connector into the K.O. Align the end of the EMT with the sight window for proper pipe engagement, and tighten. (Rouzer)



### EPCO Unveils New Long Lasting, Virtually Maintenance Free LED Utility Luminaires

The EPCO ProSeries "Elite" are weather-resistant IP65-rated LED Utility Luminaires available in Ceiling/Pendant or Wall Mount configurations that produce only 79 lumens per watt, boasts 93 percent electrical efficiency, and is suitable for a variety of indoor and outdoor lighting applications. For more information about the company or LED luminaires, contact Engineered Products Company at [www.engproducts.com](http://www.engproducts.com) or call 800-336.1976. (submitted by EPCO)



**\*\*Product/Service Members! If you would like to highlight your new products, email us at [rbrunlik@electricalassociation.com](mailto:rbrunlik@electricalassociation.com).**



Alex Hyatt  
National Sales Mgr

## Member Benefits

### MEA Online Apprenticeship Training—The Electrician’s Training Course

Summer is here and the construction season is upon us. For contractors juggling multiple projects and working deadline to deadline, there has never been a greater need have an efficient and productive team of skilled workers.

If you are fortunate to have apprentices working for you, there is little time left within the working day to effectively train them. MEA has a solution for you with our Online Apprenticeship Training —*The Electrician’s Training Course*.

Your apprentices will dedicate 6 hours a week outside of work to related electrical training, with 3 hours online and 3 hours of homework and quizzes. This provides them with the education they will need to become a more valuable employee, and upon completion of the 4 years of training, your apprentices will be ready to pass the Electrical Journeyworker Exam.

Our Online Apprenticeship Training is preferred by electrical contractors for the following reasons:

- **Flexibility** – Classes can be taken from anywhere in the country with a laptop computer, eliminating the need for travel and maximizing your training schedule. This is ideal for apprentices that travel, and any missed classes can easily be made up by viewing the recorded sessions on our apprentice website.
- **Interaction** – Our courses are live with an actual instructor, eliminating the passive nature of other online training providers and increasing class interaction and participation. Our instructors are available to help answer any questions outside of

class via email or phone. We keep you informed of their progress, and you have access to all grades and test results to track performance.

- **Maintain a Full Work Schedule** – Classes are held after working hours, so you avoid taking your apprentices off the job and increase their availability to work full time.
- **Productivity** – The technical knowledge gained from our program reduces the amount of time you spend training your apprentices and increases their productivity. By investing in your

apprentices, you avoid costly rework and mistakes and increase their ability to plan ahead.

Investing in training for your employees means investing in the future of your business. Trained employees are more productive, make fewer mistakes and have increased job satisfaction. As a member of MEA, you receive a significant discount on course tuition and books.

Classes begin on September 25. For questions or to enroll, call us at 612-827-6117 or visit us at: [www.electricalassociation.com/apprentice](http://www.electricalassociation.com/apprentice)

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## Member Spotlight:

# James Hietala, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth

This month, we feature new MEA member, James Hietala, of Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). Since joining in December 2017, the WLSSD has had MEA instructor, Mike Miller, out to teach a private group code session on Special Occupancies and Hazardous Locations.

An Electrical Engineer and Master Electrician, James has worked at the Duluth-based regional wastewater treatment facility since 2011, where he currently serves as the Electrical and Instrumentation Supervisor. James and his wife, Becky, are proud parents to Justin, a Data Scientist, and Jonah, a Journey Electrician for local 292. They have two grandchildren, James and Amalie. James loves to read, ride bicycles and is a craft beer enthusiast.

### What made you want to become an Electrical Engineer?

In ninth grade, I took a Basic Electricity shop class. We were working with tube technology back then! I found that I really enjoyed and understood it. I later went on to graduate from the U of M with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

### Tell us about your upcoming project.

We are initiating construction on a completely new oxygen supply system. We are replacing the

rest of our electrical distribution feeders and lineup to allow us to increase reliability and safety, and will be replacing any outdated cable, our unit substations and all incoming switchgear. Then we’re moving forward on our combined heat and power project, including two 825 kW generators we’ll run using our own methane-rich biogas produced during wastewater treatment. The hope is that we’ll be able to generate enough gas and the loads will be low enough, that we can create our own energy supply and become self-sufficient.

### What aspects of your job as Master Electrician in a plant environment do you enjoy most?

It’s a great challenge to work in an industrial environment. When problems come up, we have to figure out how to get things back up and running, often in a limited amount of time. From a variety standpoint, we work on everything from PLCs, up to 900 hp motors and 13.8 kV switchgear and everything else in between.

### You’re currently hiring for an experienced Apprentice or Journey Level Electrician. Tell us about why WLSSD is such a great place to work.

WLSSD is a leader in environmental protection and is a critical component to keeping Lake Superior the beautiful, freshwater body that it is. So there is a great purpose to what we do and why we want to do

a great job. The position covers a wide variety of work, and there is great potential to become a highly-talented and flexible electrician. It’s a safe and pleasant setting to work in, unlike what you may see in some other settings. Our outside contractors often tell us how clean and safe our environment is.



James Hietala and Alex Hyatt

Duluth is a beautiful area to live and work. WLSSD is a great plant to work in, with great people, and we offer competitive pay with excellent health and retirement benefits. Plus, you’ll never have to travel and can enjoy the perks of a consistent schedule. If you’re interested in starting a career with long-term job stability, please visit the Careers section of our website at [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com).



Tim Pass,  
Accountant, Smith  
Schafer CPAs

## Compliance

### Sales Tax Implications for the Construction Contractors

Success in the construction industry requires the ability to cost effectively create a building envelope, structure or support system and virtually every financial decision regarding your construction company, has a tax consequence. The summary

outlined below covers the most common sales tax implications for construction contractors. Contractors must pay sales tax on the cost of all materials, supplies, and equipment to complete a construction contract. **Tax Tip:** You may pass this tax onto your customers as part of the materials cost. Do not itemize it separately on customer invoices.

#### Materials & Supplies

As a contractor, you must pay the sales tax on the purchase price of the materials used. If you sell repair parts or materials to your customer WITHOUT installation, you have made a retail sale. If you are a contractor and also make retail sales, the rules for when and how you pay tax on purchases depend on:

1. **Whether you know how the items will be used when you buy them.**

If you know how the items will be used when you buy them, the sales tax treatment of your purchase depends on how you will use or resell the items.

2. **Whether they will be used in a construction contact or sold at retail.**

If the items will be used in a construction contract, pay sales tax when you buy them. If the

items will be sold at retail, give the seller a completed Certificate of Exemption – Form ST3.

3. **In some cases, whether you are “primarily a retailer” or “primarily a contractor.”**

You are *primarily a contractor* if at least 50% of your business purchases are used for construction activity. If you are primarily a contractor, **pay sales tax on all purchases.** If you later sell any of these items at retail, deduct the cost of the materials you already paid the sales tax on.

You are primarily a retailer if at least 50 percent of your business purchases are for retail sales. If you are primarily a retailer, do not pay sales tax on your purchase. Give the supplier a completed Certificate of Exemption. Collect sales tax from your customer when you sell taxable items at retail. If any items purchased exempt for resale are used later in a construction contract, you must report the cost of the items as use tax purchases when filing your sales and use tax return.

#### Equipment & Machinery

Machinery and equipment are considered tangible personal property. Contractors should buy these items exempt for resale by providing the seller with a completed Certificate of Exemption. When billing customers, the contractor must tax the following, unless a customer provided a completed exemption certificate:

- Machinery and equipment
- Installation labor and setup labor of the machinery and equipment
- Delivery charges for the machinery and equipment

#### Minnesota Tax

Materials delivered to contractors in Minnesota, for use in an out-of-state contract, are subject to Minnesota sales tax, unless the materials are not subject to tax in the state or country where the contract work is done. Materials delivered by a vendor directly to a construction site outside Minnesota, are not subject to this tax.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue website has a sales tax calculator to determine the state and local sales and use tax rate to apply to taxable purchases. To find the appropriate sales tax rate for a particular jurisdiction, enter a valid address and city, or enter the full nine digit zip code. The nine digit zip code method is the most accurate.

#### Questions?

An appropriate tax planning strategy can help you create saving opportunities both now and in the future. You need someone on your side with a deep understanding of all tax laws and rules to navigate the seemingly endless amount of new and changing tax regulations that can complicate compliance efforts. Smith Schafer can provide this expertise. Smith Schafer is a recognized leader in providing accounting, auditing and consulting services to the construction industry. Our Construction Group, comprised of numerous professionals, is committed to serving over 500 Minnesota construction and real estate entities. Click here to schedule a 30-minute free consultation and learn tax saving strategies that best fit your situation. ([www.smith-schafer.com/contact-us](http://www.smith-schafer.com/contact-us)) We look forward to speaking with you!

You Need to Know - Cont from page 4

**Square D Safety Switches...** Square D brand General Duty 30 & 60A, 120/240-volt, 2-phase and 3-phase NEMA 3R Safety Switches. The power can stay on when the safety switch handle is in the “OFF” position, posing an electrical shock or electrocution hazard to consumers. ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov))

#### TECHNOLOGY

**“Smart” Charging Electric Vehicles with Solar at the Greenway Building...** In June 2017, the Great Plains Institute (GPI) in collaboration with ZEF Energy, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Wellington Management completed installation of three “smart chargers” for EVs at

GPI’s headquarters in the Greenway Building in Minneapolis. These smart chargers interact with the grid and the building’s rooftop solar panels to draw more energy to power up EVs (equivalent to a Level 2 charger) while the sun is shining and less energy (similar to a Level 1 charger) when it isn’t. [www.betterenergy.org](http://www.betterenergy.org)

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Retirement Confidence...** This year’s Retirement Confidence Survey finds only 1/3 of retirees very confident in their ability to live comfortably throughout retirement. While this is comparable to last year, retiree confidence in having enough

money to cover basic expenses and medical expenses has dropped; 80% say they are very/somewhat confident about covering basic expenses this year compared to 85% in 2017. Confidence that Medicare and Social Security will continue to provide benefits equal to what retirees receive today has significantly declined compared to last year, with fewer than half saying they are very or somewhat confident. Only 7% say they are very confident that each of these will continue to provide the same level of benefits. ([www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org))



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# Community news

## Welcome New Members

Amek Electric..... Chaska MN  
 CED ..... Eau Claire, WI  
 Dynamic Electric..... Faribault MN  
 Gerrety Systems Inc..... Wayzata MN  
 McLaughlin Gormley & King (MGK) .... Chaska MN

## Sympathy



**Steve McConnell, Arcade Electric...** Steve, age 61, lost his hard-fought battle with ALS on May 26. He passed peacefully in his sleep with his family by his side. Steve is survived by his loving wife Karen, two children Mollie and Tom, daughter-in-law Rebecca and granddaughter Madeline, and sisters Kathee and Mary. Memorials preferred to the ALS Assoc Minnesota Chapter.

## Congratulations

**Jackson Grandchildren...** Dale Jackson is happy and proud to announce the birth of his first two grandchildren! *Evelyn Ann Jackson*: born March 6 to Cody and Brittany Jackson; and *Paisley Kay Rettmann*: born March 14 to Justin & Tara (Jackson) Rettmann.



**Vlaminck Grandchild #8!** Pat and Phyllis are excited to announce that they have a new grandson born May 4! Weighing in at 7 lbs 7 oz, Jase Charles, and his mom are both healthy and doing well.



**Rouzer Group Hires Tool Specialist...** Chris Hiniker. Chris comes to Rouzer Group with experience in our industry in the distribution network. The hybrid position that Chris will be filling includes Inside Sales, Customer Service and Tool Specialist. You can reach Chris directly at (952) 737-6335 or [Chris@rouzer.com](mailto:Chris@rouzer.com)



**Dakota Supply Group (DSG) Hires Paul Kennedy As New CEO...** starting June 11, he will lead management efforts and oversee the company's business operations. He will be based out of DSG's Plymouth, MN. Before joining DSG, most recently Kennedy served as President and COO of First Supply. Prior to that, he spent 20 years in progressively senior management roles with Westburne Supply, Ferguson Enterprises and Woseley in Canada. Tracing his roots, Kennedy's career began as a Navy Intelligence Officer, then shifted to management of a plumbing and HVAC contractor in upper Minnesota.

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**Thank You to Crescent Electric...** for opening up your facility to host our Committee Meetings and also for hosting an Avivo Business Partner Council on June 6.

**Thank you Viking Electric...** for our sharing your beautiful conference room with the MEA staff for our Strengths Workshop in March and May.

**Thank you for Helping Us on Building Day...** Jeff Keljik, Mike Klein, Karen & Gerry Maine, Clara & Jon Albert, Jamie Quenzer, Ben Dorner and



Mackenzey Kuhlmann; not pictured with the group, Alex and Toby Hyatt. Everything looks great!



## Moves & Mergers

### Rouzer Group & Lee-Noonan/Minnkota Sales Merger...

Lee-Noonan/Minnkota Sales along with the Rouzer Group are very excited to announce an agreement where the companies would merge effective July 1. The merger is very synergistic as it not only deepens the electrical product offering for both companies but also creates a utility division to go along side not only electrical but professional tool and fastener divisions. More details will be announced after the close of the transaction.



## WELCOME & Thank you to New MEA Leadership!



Board of Directors  
**Nick Bischoff**  
 Design Electric, St Cloud



Chair, Workforce Development Committee  
**Jayson Oswald**  
 Landmark Electric Ramsey



Chair, Government Action Committee  
**Shawn Hasskamp**  
 Dutch's Electric Aitkin



Thank you to **JEFF KUNKEL**, past chair of this committee, who is stepping up to be the Secretary on the Board.

Thank you to **TIM ZINNIEL**, past chair, who will continue to help lead this committee as the vice chair.

## Throwback Corner

We found a treasure trove of photos from "Back in the Day" and hope they bring back good memories!



These generous individuals have helped build our Association! Stay tuned as we recognize others...



Dave Ferkul, CIH, CSP  
Supervisor, Workplace  
Safety Consultation

## Safety Compliance



### Considerations When Using Elevating Work Platforms

When utilizing an aerial lift, pay attention to the conditions where the lift is used. Inclined surfaces, abrupt elevation changes, floor holes/openings, overhead obstructions, and debris must not affect safe operation of the lift. Demarcating or applying physical barriers/covers may be necessary.

If a rough terrain forklift is utilized to support a work platform, the length of the platform must not extend more than 10" beyond the wheel base of the forklift. A secure means of attachment must be utilized and the lift cannot be moved horizontally while workers are in the basket.

No modifications are allowed to an aerial lift, for uses other than those intended by the manufacturer, without written certification by the manufacturer or other equivalent entity, to validate conformance with ANSI provisions.

- Do not alter the insulating portion of an aerial lift in any manner that will reduce its insulating value.
- Test lift controls daily to ensure they are in safe working condition.

- Follow manufacturer recommended routines and annual inspections of aerial lifts.
- Do not exceed boom and basket load limits. Consider the weight of the worker(s) and accompanying tools that will be used.
- Set the brakes and utilize outriggers, as required. When outriggers are used, they must be positioned on pads or other solid surface.
- An aerial platform cannot be driven on slopes exceeding those stated by the manufacturer.
- Boom supported aerial lifts must have a functioning inter-lock to ensure the platform cannot be positioned beyond the maximum travel limitations.
- An aerial lift truck cannot be moved when the boom is elevated in a working position, with men in the basket, unless the equipment is specifically designed for that type of operation.
- Maintain adequate clearances from energized electrical lines or better yet, ensure the lines are de-energized prior to working in the area. For lines less than 300 V, 3' of clearance is required. From 300 V up to 50kV, 10' is a minimum clearance. For each additional kV, 0.4" of clearance must be provided.
- Only authorized personnel, trained in the use, must operate aerial lifts.



This aerial work platform collapsed during the incident and the lift basket crashed to the ground. (Photo courtesy of OSHA)

Dave has held multiple positions in various consultant and supervisory roles, within Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC). He is a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional, who has had opportunities to work with a wide range of public and private sector employers, in general industry and construction, providing technical assistance in industrial hygiene, safety, and ergonomics, while gaining insights and guiding employers on more effective management of workplace safety & health. He provides overall program support for WSC, overseeing the Safety Grants and Alliance programs, and current focus on temporary worker safety.



Jeff Keljik  
Director of Education

## Word on the Street

### Electric Shock Drowning

#### 555.24 Signage

Permanent safety signs are installed to alert swimmers of potential electric current that may be conducted through the water. The signs are to be posted at marina and boat docks because of the dangers encountered when electric power has leakage current from the electrical systems on docks or from boat power. These currents may cause swimmers to have muscles fail to work and not be able to move in the water. The swimmers cannot move and then drown. The effect that causes drowning is referred to as *Electric Shock Drowning* or *ESD*.

The signs shall state:

**WARNING—  
POTENTIAL SHOCK  
HAZARD—  
ELECTRICAL  
CURRENTS MAY BE  
PRESENT IN THE  
WATER**



The preceding is taken from the MEA Apprenticeship training manual for year 2 curriculum based on the 2017 NEC®. As this phenomenon gains more attention and further investigation, the electrical industry will respond. The 2020 NEC® is going to have additional requirements and clarifications on the provisions to prevent ESD events.

The electric current is caused by leakage current from an electrical source. The source may be an electrical circuit near the water, on docks, or even boat based electrical systems. This applies to all wharves, docks, floating piers, etc., including one and multi-family dwellings, and all residential and commercial facilities with water accessible facilities using electricity. If current is "leaking" from the normal circuit and has current returning to the source in other than the approved paths back, then current may be traveling through the water to return to the source. This is a return to ground through a faulty system—a **ground fault!**

It is caused by improper or damaged wiring without working ground fault protection. The effect seems to be more prevalent in fresh water because the human body is a better conductor than the fresh water. In salt water, the water is a better conductor than a human body, but current still may take a path through the body. The effect can also be at swimming pools and hot tubs that have electric power present, or a watercraft. This ground fault might be intermittent only when a particular piece of equipment is operating, making it very hard to diagnose. AC current is more dangerous than DC current in this type of fault.



Marine Power Source

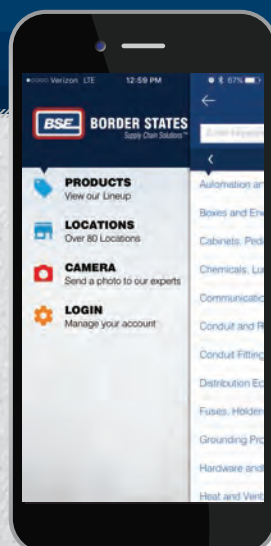
Electricians should be vigilant to make sure that electricity on docks for homes and marinas have

properly wired electrical systems and have working GFCI protection for all receptacles at 4-6 mA. According to NEC Art 555.3®, the overcurrent that supplies docking facilities shall have ground fault protection not exceeding 30mA. This may change next code cycle.

If you do need to rescue a person suspected of ESD effect, do not enter the water! Instead, have the victim move away from the suspected source of the current if possible.

If they cannot move, the terminology is: "Row and Throw, but Do Not Go". Use flotation devices and a throw rope to help the swimmer, and pull them to safety. If possible, disconnect the suspected source of current.

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Among those tools are two attractive financing products that provide additional incentive to business owners who are looking for help funding their lighting project:

### Commercial Energy Efficiency Loan for Minnesota Businesses

- Interest Rate: 3.9% up to 60 months or 5.99% from 61-120 months
- Maximum Loan: \$100,000

- No prepayment penalty
- Closing costs apply

### Energy Savings Fund for Minnesota nonprofits

- Interest Rate: 0%
- Maximum Loan: \$25,000
- No prepayment penalty
- Maximum Term: 5 years
- Income Limit: None
- Fees: None

Loan payments for projects with paybacks of five years or less are structured to match monthly energy savings, resulting in a neutral cash flow for the business owner.

In 2018, One-Stop will facilitate \$7 million in rebates to participating businesses.

For more details on these products or on the rebates and services offered through the One-Stop Efficiency Shop, contact Cindy Kelly at 612-244-2427 or ckelly@mncee.org.



## Reduce Project Costs with Rebates from Xcel Energy

Business customers in Xcel Energy's service territory can benefit from a wide range of rebates designed to reduce the cost of making energy-efficiency improvements. From LED upgrades to comprehensive system replacements, rebates can be used for many types of business initiatives aimed to reduce energy use and save money.

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For more information and to view our full line of rebates available, visit [xcelenergy.com/Rebates](http://xcelenergy.com/Rebates) or contact our energy efficiency specialists at 855-839-8862.



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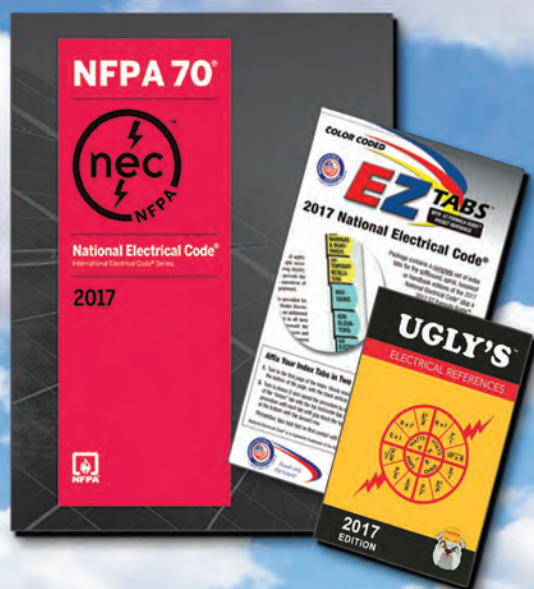
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