

Volts & Views

...from the inside

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST AND DATES TO ADD TO YOUR 2024 CALENDAR!

- July 18-21, 2024
2024 Dakotas Chapter NECA Annual Membership Meeting
Alexandria, MN
- July 27-August 2, 2024
2024 National Training Institute (NTI)
University of Michigan
- Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2024
NECA Convention & Trade Show
San Diego, CA

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IN THE NEWS...

Honing Your Safety Eye: *Situational awareness on the job site*

By Tom O'Connor-Safety Leader
Electrical Contractor Magazine

Situational awareness is the ability to perceive, assess and respond effectively to a situation. It is a critical skill for construction and electrical workers. Individuals need to collect information from their surroundings, understand what it means and use it to determine the optimal course of action.

Electrical construction workers need to be aware of their surroundings and potential hazards. Paying attention to what's going on around them could help prevent accidents and incidents.

GROWING YOUR SKILLS

Situational awareness is a skill that can be constantly improved. It is the crux of good decision-making. In an effort to get better at it, workers can take 360-degree inventory of their surroundings to see everything that's happening around them. They should also consider what bystanders and co-workers are seeing. By questioning everything, workers can develop the proper intelligence to make the best and safest decisions.

OSHA's Situational Awareness Outline indicates that workers should "know how to identify different safety hazards within the worksite, and what could create a hazard in the future."

Predicting what comes next is helpful in preventing an accident. As a result, workers should have the question of what could happen next programmed in their minds.

The subconscious plays a role in situational awareness, too. The more a worker does a particular job, the more familiar they are with their environment and the hazards that exist, or that they may potentially encounter. However, familiarity can lead to complacency, which can result in an accident, injury or worse. For more information, check out "[The Art of Safety](#)" in the February 2022 edition of **SAFETY LEADER**.

A biased point of view can also lead to poor decision making and an unsafe workplace. In addition to the subconscious, stress levels and mental health can affect judgment and the decision-making process. Workers and employers should try to stay level-headed and focus on their responsibilities and surroundings.

("Honing your Safety Eye" continued on page 2)



Honing Your Safety Eye

(from page 1)

TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION

The best situational awareness or safety protocols only work if the information can be communicated effectively. Safety requires workers and employers to work as a team and transmit information as it pertains to risk, hazard mitigation, efficiency and overall compliance.

An example from the worker perspective may include alerting a supervisor to a hazard or indicating to them that a task may be too risky to be completed by one person. From the employer’s point of view, it may include prejob safety briefings, education and training.

Employees are entitled to a safe and healthy work environment. Employers are required to provide information and training about hazards, methods to prevent harm and the OSHA standards that apply to their scope of work. Workers also have the right to file a complaint with OSHA or request hazard correction from employers, and they can file a confidential complaint with OSHA to have their workplace inspected.

Any worker who submits a complaint or cooperates with an investigation is protected from retaliatory action under OSHA’s whistleblower protection program. However, organizations with a positive and healthy safety culture should have no problem having open dialogue with workers on issues of hazard and risk.

Employers may also provide training on situational awareness itself. Educating workers on how to identify and navigate job-specific hazards is crucial. Teaching them how to think quickly on their feet in a fast-paced environment can prove extraordinarily valuable. All education and training should be provided in a language that every worker understands.

Finally, according to OSHA, as it pertains to situational awareness, “As soon as you can identify a hazard in the workplace you should do everything possible to fix the hazard, communicate the hazard to others, eliminate the hazard altogether. If you are unable to fix it: get someone who can and protect workers until it is corrected.”

For employers, “When changes occur within the workplace, let others know [the] hazards that might be present, monitor the performance of everyone on site, give safety information to anyone who is on site, identify potential or existing problems (i.e., equipment-related or operational), demonstrate awareness (know what processes are happening), explain what should be done to eliminate the hazards, and eliminate hazards and protect workers.”

2024 Dakotas Chapter NECA Annual Membership Meeting

The Dakotas Chapter NECA Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner! You should have received your official invitation.

Please have your completed registration form into the NECA office by June 9th.

We have a fun-packed weekend planned. We look forward to seeing all of you and your families for another great summer event at Arrowwood!

Please contact Darla if you have any questions:

Phone: 701-293-1300 / Email: admin@dakotasneca.org

Dakotas Chapter NECA 2024 Annual Meeting Registration
 PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 9TH
 Please indicate in table whether:
 YES / NO / N/A

Registration Option, Lunch, & Children's Program (Please do not check if you do not attend)	Thursday, June 14	Friday, June 15
• 8:00 am - Social & Appetizers	Adult: _____ Children: _____	• 7:00 am - Breakfast
• 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Code Class	Adult: _____ Children: _____	• 8:00 am - Breakfast Meeting
• 12:00 pm - Lunch	Adult: _____ Children: _____	• 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch
• 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Safety & Health	Adult: _____ Children: _____	• 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch
• 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - All Night Risk Program Activity to be announced later.	Adult: _____ Children: _____	• 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Business
		• 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Social, Gift Drawing, Dinner
		Adult: _____ Children: _____
		• 8:00 pm - 1:00 am - Music
		Adult: _____ Children: _____
		• 1:00 am - 4:00 am - Breakfast
		Adult: _____ Children: _____
		• 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Social, Gift Drawing, Dinner
		Adult: _____ Children: _____
		• 8:00 pm - 1:00 am - Music
		Adult: _____ Children: _____

Please return registration form to Darla:
 E-mail: admin@dakotasneca.org
 Fax: 701-293-1301
 Mail: Dakotas Chapter NECA
 2301 1st Ave N
 Fargo, ND 58102

Accommodations
 Arrival Date & Time: _____
 Departure Date: _____

Additional Registration Options:
 • 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Social & BBQ
 Adult: _____ Children: _____
 • 8:00 pm - Entertainment
 Adult: _____ Children: _____

Children, June 21
 • 8:00 - 1:00 pm - check out
 If you have any questions please contact Darla at 701-293-1300.
 We look forward to another great summer Membership Meeting. See you there!



NECA members, affiliates and families enjoy a summer evening at the 2023 NECA Annual Meeting .



Dakotas Electrical JATC 2024 Graduates



Williston, Minot & Bismarck Graduates.



Fargo & Grand Forks Graduates.



Sioux Falls Graduates.

Congratulations Graduates!

The Dakotas Chapter NECA staff and contracting members attended the 2024 JATC graduations earlier this month. The JATC had a total of 91 graduates over all divisions. Congratulations to all of them and we wish them well as they begin their careers as journey workers.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With Ed Christian, Executive Director, Dakotas Chapter NECA

Hello All,

Hello green grass and field work.

The Chapter will be offering project estimating and leadership seminars late summer so make sure to reach out to Curt Kasper should you have any questions.

We remind everyone to check out necanet.org to see all the classes that are available with online learning options, we do have reimbursement available for members in good standing for taking class that are offered through NECA. A note to make sure you remain active on this site, so you are not removed from communications.

Congratulations to our recent Apprentice graduates from the Dakotas Electrical Apprenticeship. The Apprentice banquets were held over the past few weeks, and we appreciate all the Apprentices and their efforts in attaining this milestone in their career.

We will be updating and distributing new wage sheets in our Sioux Falls Division with IBEW Local Union 426 effective June 3, 2024, as soon as we are able. This Inside contract negotiations were heard by CIR on May 21, 2024 and we are awaiting the decision. New CBA's will also be forthcoming.

We have updated and distributed the wage sheets in our Fargo-Moorhead/Grand Forks Divisions with IBEW Local Union 1426 effective June 1, 2024. We are in negotiations presently on the Sound and Communications Agreement.

We will be updating and sending wage sheets in the Bismarck/Mandan and Minot/Williston Divisions with IBEW Local Union 714 effective July 1, 2024. New CBA's will also be forthcoming.

We will be updating and sending wage sheets in the Rapid City Division with IBEW Local Union 1250 effective July 3, 2024, as soon as confirmation of the Inside negotiations is received. New CBA's will also be forthcoming.

The Chapters annual meeting will be here soon. Plan on attending the Friday July 19, 8:00 a.m. code session which will offer 4 hours of multi-State code credit. You should have received your Save the Date postcard in the past week which included registration forms and we look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Ed Christian



Our office will be closed on
Monday, May 27th.



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Moorhead Contractor celebrates 60 years!



Brothers Denny Rick, left, and Greg Rick with their mom, Bev Rick, at Rick Electric in Moorhead on May 13, 2024. Rick Electric was started by Bev and her husband, the late Dave Rick, in 1964. Denny and Greg bought the business from their parents in 1998. (Photo by Chris Flynn/The Forum)

... the secret is
"good people, good service"

Greg Rick

In 2024, Rick Electric, Inc. will celebrate the 60th anniversary of business David and Beverly Rick founded in 1964. Now led by sons Greg and Denny, Rick Electric is widely known as one of the most versatile and successful electrical contractors and service companies in the region.

Rick Electric can handle any residential or business electrical needs while also tackling large projects such as the Red River Water Supply Project, the new Nodak Insurance Football Performance Center and the Peltier Complex, North Dakota State's new agriculture research center.

Greg Rick has said the secret is "good people, good service", noting that the company has many 20 to 30-year veterans working in the field and in the office.

"We're diversified," Rick said. "Our service work is about taking care of daily things for homeowners and business owners. That's a big part of our business."

Congratulations!

