

Volts & Views

...from the inside

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST AND DATES TO ADD TO YOUR 2025 CALENDAR!

- July 17-20, 2025
2025 Dakotas Chapter NECA Annual Membership Meeting
Alexandria, MN
- July 26-August 1, 2025
2025 National Training Institute (NTI)
University of Michigan
- Sept. 12-15, 2025
NECA Convention & Trade Show
Chicago, IL

ROUTE TO:

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IN THE NEWS...

Predicting the future with data: Educated predictions help safety programs

By Chuck Kelly
Electrical Contractor Magazine

Those in the safety field have been exposed to tons of data over the years. It has typically been used to measure safety performance. We typically referred to that data as “accident statistics/rates” when leadership asks for proof that these programs make organizations safe. There have even been times when these numbers were used as incentives to secure a raise or bonus for ourselves, crews or those we report to.

Unfortunately, that can lead to what I refer to as “pencil whipping” the numbers.

Have you ever seen an organization with more than 15,000 employees have an accident rate of 0.09%? I have, at which time I casually asked, “How many erasers did you need to get that number?”

But have no fear, the world is changing. We have slowly been transitioning from those typical lagging indicators to a more leading indicator approach. Using the leading indicator approach is a tool for safety leaders to predict future outcomes.

I have always said that the best numbers don’t necessarily equal the best programs. You can have one catastrophic incident that throws your numbers way out of whack! The key is in how you use the data.

Digging into the data enables you to make conclusions. You can see trends and make decisions that will enhance performance, increase efficiency and protect employees from future incidents.

DATA and PPE

Data is significant but not easily obtained. There are many software programs that analyze data so users can see trends and predict outcomes. It’s not cheap and doesn’t come with its own data entry staff. The old saying, “you need to spend money to make money” clearly fits here. But in this case it would be, “you need to spend money to save money.”

Years ago, the age of FR clothing and PPE was born when the federal rules governing the electrical utility industry came out, and OSHA stated that the clothing exposed electrical workers wore could not “contribute to a burn” when exposed to an electric arc. Many companies balked at the price tag associated with the cost of these programs, since the designation of PPE meant that the employer was responsible for providing (paying for) these items.



(“Predicting the future” continued on page 2)

2025 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. You can also register online through our website, www.dakotasneca.org/events/neca-annual-meeting.

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 2025 Annual Meeting Registration

****PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 9TH****



PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER ATTENDING
EACH FUNCTION:

Registrant, Spouse, Guest,
& Children's Names
(Please list children's gender & ages)

Company _____

City _____

Your Email _____

Accommodations

Arrival Date & Time _____

Departure Date _____

Please return registration form to Darla:

E-mail: admin@dakotasneca.org

Fax: 701-293-1301

Mail: Dakotas Chapter NECA
2901 1st Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

THURSDAY, JULY 17

- 6:00 pm—Social & Appetizers

Adults _____ Children _____

FRIDAY, JULY 18

- 7:00-9:30 am—Breakfast

Adults _____ Children _____

- 8:00-12:00 pm—Member Education

Adults _____

- 12:00 noon—Lunch

Adults _____ Children _____

- 1:30 pm—Golf 9-holes

Names: _____

- 1:30 pm—3:30 pm—All Ages Kids Program

Activity to be announced later...

Please sign up on back side of page.

- 6:00 pm—8:00 pm—Social & BBQ

Adults _____ Children _____

- 8:00 pm—Entertainment

Adults _____ Children _____

SATURDAY, JULY 19

- 7:00-9:30 am—Breakfast

Adults _____ Children _____

- 9:00 am

Annual Membership Meeting

Adults _____

- 12:00 noon-1:00 pm—Lunch

Adults _____ Children _____

- 1:00-4:00 pm—Pontoon

Adults _____ Children _____

- 5:00-7:30 pm Social, Gift Drawing, Dinner

Adults _____ Children _____

- 8:00 pm—Cosmic Bingo

Adults _____ Children _____

SUNDAY, JULY 20

- 8:00-11:00 am—check out

If you have any questions, please contact Darla at 701-293-1300.

We look forward to another great summer Annual Meeting. See you there!



(from page 1)

Predicting the future with data

Educational Outreach

The industry embarked on a nationwide educational outreach using expertise from OSHA, labor, manufacturers and industry end-users to assist in demonstrating that PPE was necessary. Video and analysis showed what happens to clothing and the worker when exposed to an electric arc.

Why have I digressed to discussing something beyond data? When this program was presented, the example of the outcome of an electrical arc burn and cost of the PPE was used. In this example, the total hard cost of one electrical burn equated to well over \$250,000. This was without taking into account the psychological impact on the employee, crew members and leadership.

Those costs are long-term and not easily quantifiable. But we demonstrated with the burn data cost figures that PPE was necessary. This is a perfect example of how data can be used to enhance future outcomes.

Employee Engagement

So, do you need to hire a data entry person, buy some software or do research in the effective use of data outcomes? Yes.

The good news is that there is a wealth of information out there to assist you in developing programs tailored to your needs. As any safety leader knows, good ideas benefit all and it doesn't hurt to "steal" them once in a while from fellow colleagues to promote a more effective program that provides greater safety.

While it may not be an easy task or an easy sell to upper management, it is one that can have positive effects on safety programs and organizations as a whole.



Dakotas Electrical Apprenticeship 2025 Graduates



Local 426 Graduates,
5th year.



Local 714 Graduates, 5th year.



Local 1426
Graduates,
5th year.



Local 426 Graduates,
4th year.



Local 714
Graduates,
4th year.



Local 1426
Graduates,
4th year.

Congratulations Graduates!

The Dakotas Chapter NECA staff and contracting members attended the 2025 DEA graduations earlier this month. The DEA had a total of 100 graduates over all divisions. Congratulations and we wish them well as they begin their career as journey workers.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With Ed Christian, Executive Director, Dakotas Chapter NECA

Hello All,

Congratulations to Curt Kasper on his 10th year anniversary with the Dakotas Chapter NECA, in March, we appreciate Curt's efforts on your behalf.

At our most recent Division meetings, we announced the Chapter will cover the registration fees for online attendance at either Basic Estimating or the Advanced Estimating for Member contractors in good standing. Make sure to register using necanet.org and if you need any assistance, please reach out to us.

We congratulate our most recent Apprentice graduates from the Dakotas Electrical Apprenticeship. It was a milestone year since we graduated our first 720-hour program apprentices as well as our final 5-year apprenticeship graduates, we wish all the graduates well as they advance in their careers.

We have updated and distributed new wage sheets for Local 426 and Local 1426 as each has June 1, 2025, effective dates. We are in the process of updating Local 714 and Local 1250 wage sheets as each have an effective date of June 30, 2025. We are continuing to prepare for our 66th Annual Membership meeting as it is approaching fast. Plan to attend the Friday July 18, 8:00 a.m. code session, which will offer 4 hours of multi-state code credit.

You should have received a pizza cutter with the annual meeting schedule and registration form in the mail. You can also register online at www.dakotasneca.org for the annual meeting. We are here to assist if you have any questions. Enjoy your start to Summer and we look forward to you attending the summer meeting.

On behalf of the Dakotas Chapter NECA staff,

Ed Christian



Our office will be closed on
Friday, July 4th.



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Meet Sharlene Larson

Sharlene Larson, NECA Accounting Manager, is the newest member of Dakotas Chapter NECA. She has more than 20 years of customer service experience, with the most recent of eight years in the banking industry.

She replaces Nola Brad-dock, who retired from the Dakotas Chapter late last year.

Sharlene is originally from Huron, South Dakota but has been in North Dakota for about 14 years. With her large family (including 5 sisters) still residing in and around the Huron area, she quite often makes the trip back home to spend time with her family.

She lives in Horace with her two Basset Hounds- Jim and Blue.

In her spare time, she enjoys tending to her houseplants, cooking, biking, walking her dogs, rollerblading and her new-found love for Pickleball!

Sharlene is very happy to be a member of the NECA team and is excited to learn more about the industry.



**NECA 2025 Convention
and Trade Show
September 12-15, 2025
McCormick Place West,
Chicago, IL**

Your Power Source for Growth:

NECA 2025 Chicago is Ready for You!

Registration is now open for the 2025 NECA Convention & Trade Show in Chicago, IL! This four-day event equips electrical contractors of all sizes and specialties with the tools, knowledge and connections needed to thrive in today's fast-changing market.

If you need assistance with registering for Chicago, please contact Darla at the NECA office 701-293-1300.