



The MidWest Wireman
8946 L Street
Omaha, NE. 68127
Phone 402-331-8147
Fax 402-331-0836
www.ibew22.org

Special Points of Interest:

- Significance of Labor Day
- Career Fair Success

"No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level I mean the wages of decent living."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

SIGNIFICANCE OF LABOR DAY

Holidays are important in America. Many of our holidays have deep and meaningful traditions that reflect our values and shared sense of history. They are special days set aside where we can put down our work and spend time with our friends and families. Labor Day is such a day of celebration. Unfortunately, the true history and significance of Labor Day may not be understood as well as it should be. It is more than just a day off and the last hurrah of summer. It is a day where we should reflect on the heroic efforts and sacrifices people made in the early days of the Labor Movement in America. We truly have much to appreciate from our humble beginnings.

In the late 1800's, the first Labor Day celebrations were held when time off from work was practically unheard of. The weekend as we know it did not even exist. There wasn't any workplace safety, OSHA regulations or Department of Labor. Workplace protections did not exist. If you were injured on the job, there was no workers' compensation to provide for your recovery. Workers were discarded and replaced as though they were nothing more than a piece of equipment. If you were hurt or killed, your family would have been thrown out of the company housing. There were no avenues to turn to for help. The government itself was often used as a tool of the corporations and robber barons. The military would be sent out to break up protests and strikes. This often included violence in the form of beatings and shootings. Could you imagine the National Guard being called out to secure a region in your state to put down a protest about safety or higher wages?

The struggles and victories of the early union members and organizers paved the way for the workplace conditions that we have in America today. Two day weekends, the 40 hour work week, holidays, sick leave, vacation, retirement pensions, workers' compensation, and even disability insurance are all the result of the Labor Movement. The work that these pioneers of the Labor Movement did is important and it deserves to be honored and treated with dignity. The significance of Labor Day is to honor the work and sacrifices of those men and women who brought us so much.

It is also important to remember that there are constant attacks on all of these rights. Little by little, year by year, the forces of the greedy elite will chip away at our protections and conditions. These safeguards and benefits were hard fought for and won. Staying competitive in a worldwide economy does not mean we should give up our dignity or safety.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Tricks of the Trade | 2 |
| Iowa License | 2 |
| Career Fair Success | 3 |
| Continuing Education | 4 |
| Davis Bacon | 5 |
| Poor Installations | 6 |

Tricks of the Trade

Use coat hanger to drill: Lining up holes on two sides of a wall can sometimes be a real trick. A sight hole can really help, but too often your small diameter drill bits just aren't long enough. Clip the straight bottom piece off of a stiff wire coat hanger and use that. Cut it to the desired length and cut one end at a 45-degree angle. Take your time drilling, and you'll find that this 'probe' will eventually drill through most building materials except masonry. The wires used to hang drop ceilings work pretty well for this too, as long as they're straight.

Using cotton string to cut PVC pipe: When cutting exposed PVC pipe conduit you can use a cotton string instead of a hacksaw. Wrap the string (such as the kind contractors use for form lines) half-way around the conduit and see-saw the ends. The friction will cut the PVC cleanly as quickly as a hacksaw and does not require the space.

Use your holesaw in reverse: To make hole saws last longer when drilling through drywall, run the drill in reverse. It takes only a second or two longer to drill the hole, yet the sharp edges of the holesaw will not be ruined.

Easy labeling for NM Cable: When wiring a home with NM cable, use the scrap sheathing as a marker for the circuit. After cutting the sheathing back, keep a 2-3 inch section of it and write the circuit's identification on it. Then slip the sheathing back over the current carrying conductors (black/white). When circuit breakers are installed leave this tag on the wires. It makes labeling the panel a breeze. Leaving the tags on permanently will make circuit identification easy when the panel board door is removed for servicing.

Reduce friction when drilling: Buy a new inexpensive toilet bowl wax seal ring at your local hardware store. Fill a small container, like a camera film container, with the wax and keep it in your material pouch. When driving screws with a cordless drill, lightly roll the screw threads in the wax. The reduced friction gets you through the job fast, and saves on battery power.

Iowa License

If you have graduated from a registered apprenticeship program and passed the State of Nebraska Journeyman electrical exam, you may reciprocate your Nebraska Journeyman license to obtain the State of Iowa Journeyman license without testing. Otherwise you have to work **16,000 hours as a Journeyman** in order to reciprocate your Nebraska license. That's approximately **8 years as a Journeyman!**

I spoke with one of our members who went through an electrician program with the ABC school and wanted to do just that. He was denied when the State of Iowa told him that he had not been a registered apprentice with the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship. The State of Iowa will not accept your apprenticeship program unless it was a Certified Registered Apprenticeship program with the D.O.L. The ABC school has two separate electrical programs. One is a D.O.L. registered apprenticeship program. The other is a parallel pay-as-you-go program. The parallel program is open to anyone who walks in off the street. They can even attend the same classes as those who are in the Certified Registered Apprenticeship Program, but they are not registered apprentices. Imagine how confusing this can be for someone who just wants to learn the trade.

This guy obviously spent a fair amount of time and money to learn a trade, only to be denied a license on a technical error. Whether it was the contractor or the ABC school that did not certify him as a Registered Apprentice, he has to deal with the results. The only option left for this young man is to get an "Unclassified" license in Iowa, work 1,000 hours as an Unclassified Electrician and then apply to take the State of Iowa Journeyman exam.

If you are attending the ABC's electrical apprenticeship program and are unsure of whether or not you are officially registered as an Apprentice with the D.O.L. Office of Apprenticeship you can call the Office of Apprenticeship at (402) 221-3281 to find out.

Career Fair Success

IBEW Local 22 held a career fair at the Comfort Inn & Suites on August 16th of this year. We had a great evening with over 120 electrician and low voltage technicians showing up in person throughout the event. Those who attended had a chance to talk with 8 of our largest signatory electrical contractors. With several high profile projects on the horizon in our area, it was a great chance for skilled tradesmen to showcase their knowledge and experience for the contractors. In all, 27 qualified applicants were offered union jobs that night and another 75 could be offered positions in the near future.

We also had 91 resumes emailed in from people who were unable to attend that night. And the resumes continue to come in even as recently as last week. If you are interested in being considered, send in your resume to NebraskaIowaElectricianJobs@gmail.com.

What the great turnout tells us is that there is a lot of interest in learning more about opportunities and work with our union contractors. Our Construction Wireman and Construction Electrician program allows for direct, off the street hiring for workers of all skill levels and gives them a chance to work at their trade with conditions our members enjoy every day.

With a pizza buffet, and raffle prizes of tools and equipment from Milwaukee and others, the evening had a lot to offer. We plan on doing these every 6 months or as the manpower needs warrant. Thanks to everyone who attended and for those who couldn't, we hope to hear from you soon.



Continuing Education

Significant Changes to the 2011 NEC

This course will cover the most significant changes that occurred between the 2008 and 2011 editions of the NEC, why the change occurred, as well as its significance to the electrical industry. The course is essential for Code instructors, especially those covering the two Code change lessons in *Codes and Practices 4/5*. This course is also well suited for contractors, estimators, inspectors, electrical workers, and anyone who needs to stay abreast of the changes to the NEC. This course features the NJATC *Significant Changes to the NEC - 2011 edition* Textbook.

Participants MUST bring a copy of the 2011 NEC to class.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u>November 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 21, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |
| <u>November 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and 22, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |
| <u>December 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, and 19, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |
| <u>December 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, and 20, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----|
| <u>Cost:</u> | \$145.00 book fee | | |
| <u>Nebraska CEU's:</u> | 12 | <u>Minimum students:</u> | 20 |
| <u>Iowa CEU's:</u> | 18 | <u>Maximum students:</u> | 35 |

Important: The first four class dates are registered with the State of Nebraska. If you only need 12 hours, you must attend the first four classes.

2011 Code Calculations

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <u>October 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |
| <u>October 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31, 2012</u> | <u>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm</u> |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----|
| <u>Cost:</u> | \$157.00 book fee | | |
| <u>Nebraska CEU's:</u> | 12 | <u>Minimum students:</u> | 20 |
| <u>Iowa CEU's:</u> | 18 | <u>Maximum students:</u> | 35 |

Deadline to sign up for these classes are two weeks before the class starts!

Contact Kevin Wetuski at the training center (402) 331-3103 or kevinw@electriciansjatc.org
8960 L Street, Suite 200, Omaha, NE 68127

Want to go **green**? You can get the MidWest Wireman by email. Just email me at bjohnson@ibew22.org and I will add you to the growing list.



DAVIS BACON

With the anticipation of the STRATCOM Headquarters project at Offutt Air Base scheduled to start this year, and this work being done with federal money, the laws of Davis Bacon will apply. I wanted to point out a couple things to look for when working on a Davis Bacon project.

Below is the actual Wage Determination for Sarpy County in Nebraska. Usually there is a series of about 5-6 pages covering all crafts but for this example we are only showing the first page. For electricians the wage is \$31.00 with \$13.71 in fringe benefits equaling \$44.71 per hour. The electrical contractor can pay you any combination of wages and benefits, but it **must** equal \$44.71. Highlighted at the top of this page is the General Decision Number. This number can be different for different Davis Bacon projects, but it applies for the duration of the job and to all crafts.

Next is the Employee Rights poster (WH-1321) that must accompany the Wage Determination. In the box at the bottom of the poster should be the Contracting Officer's contact information. This is the person you contact if you think your wages are incorrect. If the Contracting Officer needs to contact your employer they will never reveal names and speak in general terms that apply to all employees.

Remember, it is a requirement by the Department of Labor that these items are posted in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by all employees. Sometimes the General Contractor thinks an accessible spot is in their job trailer. Or these required postings are never posted at all. Neither of these are acceptable to the D.O.L. and should be brought to their attention immediately.

General Decision Number: **NE120066** 06/29/2012 NE66

Superseded General Decision Number: NE20100076

State: Nebraska

Construction Type: Building
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION INCLUDING WORK ON INDUSTRIAL SITES

County: Sarpy County in Nebraska.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (does not include single family homes or apartments up to and including 4 stories).

| Modification Number | Publication Date |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 0 | 01/06/2012 |
| 1 | 01/20/2012 |
| 2 | 03/23/2012 |
| 3 | 03/30/2012 |
| 4 | 04/13/2012 |
| 5 | 04/20/2012 |
| 6 | 04/27/2012 |
| 7 | 05/11/2012 |
| 8 | 05/01/2012 |
| 9 | 05/08/2012 |
| 10 | 06/15/2012 |
| 11 | 06/29/2012 |

HRNE001-001 06/01/2011

| | Rates | Fringes |
|--|----------|---------|
| BRICKLAYER..... | \$ 26.50 | 12.05 |
| ----- | | |
| CARPENTER (Including Acoustical Ceiling Installation)..... | \$ 23.19 | 9.92 |
| ----- | | |
| CARPENTER (Drywall Hanging, Finishing Taping Only)..... | \$ 20.88 | 9.78 |
| ----- | | |
| ELECTRICIAN..... | \$ 31.00 | 13.71 |

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS UNDER THE DAVIS-BACON ACT

FOR LABORERS AND MECHANICS EMPLOYED ON FEDERAL OR FEDERALLY ASSISTED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| PREVAILING WAGE | You must be paid not less than the wage rate listed in the Davis-Bacon Wage Decision posted with this Notice for the work you perform. |
| OVERTIME | You must be paid not less than one and one-half times your basic rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a work week. There are few exceptions. |
| ENFORCEMENT | Contract payments can be withheld to ensure workers receive wages and overtime pay due, and liquidated damages may apply if overtime pay requirements are not met. Davis-Bacon contract clauses allow contract termination and debarment of contractors from future federal contracts for up to three years. A contractor who falsifies certified payroll records or induces wage kickbacks may be subject to civil or criminal prosecution, fines and/or imprisonment. |
| APPRENTICES | Apprentice rates apply only to apprentices properly registered under approved Federal or State apprenticeship programs. |
| PROPER PAY | If you do not receive proper pay, or require further information on the applicable wages, contact the Contracting Officer listed below: |

or contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

For additional information:
1-866-4-USWAGE
 (1-866-487-0043) TTY: 1-877-889-5627
WWW.WAGEHOUR.DOL.GOV

U.S. Department of Labor | Employee Benefits Administration | Wage and Hour Division

THE MIDWEST WIREMAN
8946 L STREET
OMAHA, NE 68127
(402)331-8147

Drop us a line!
bjohnson@ibew22.org

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT #249
OMAHA, NE**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Remember, They Can't Do It Without You!

POOR INSTALLATIONS

Take a look at the ingenuity of this electrician. Or should I say auto mechanic? After the rigid conduit body was broken this guy not only didn't fix it properly, he used automotive butt splices to just join the wires back together. I guess it's not even worth mentioning they didn't even make an effort to "splice in" the ground wire.

Imagine if your child or mine had grabbed a hold of these wires after a nice rain.

It's conscious decisions like these that define us as electricians. It's important to remember that real lives are at stake. That is why this is a skilled trade, not just a job.

