



Watt's Current

at the Minneapolis Electrical JATC

April 2024

Apprentice of the Month

The Milwaukee Tool Apprentice of the month for April is 1st year apprentice:
Jacob Sponsel

Congratulations Jacob!

Code Corner

A 150 hp / 110 kW, 480 VAC, variable speed drive with an input current rating of 172.8 A, output current rating of 180 A, and for input protection a Max Circuit breaker size of 250 A or max type J fuse size of 300 A, what is the minimum size THHN supply conductors to the drive when it supplies a 125 hp, 460 VAC, three-phase motor?

Answer will appear in next month's newsletter.

Last month's answer: Section 404.8 addresses requirements for accessibility and grouping of switches. While disconnecting means is a defined term in the NEC, disconnect is not, but is commonly in the industry used to refer to either a circuit breaker, or fused or unfused switch in a cutout box used as a disconnecting means. The last sentence of 404.8(A) requires the center of the grip of the operating handle of the switch or circuit break, when in its highest position, to be no more than 6' 7" above the floor or work platform.

Feedback

Questions, comments, or something you'd like to see in a future newsletter? Email Anna at amarx@mplsjatc.org.

Testing our Apprentices' General Knowledge

We have generated a quick, anonymous, ten question quiz that we would like all apprentices to take to poll the general knowledge of our students. Please click the link or use the QR code below to access the quiz. Results will be in next month's apprentice newsletter. Have a great month!

- Derrick Atkins, Training Director



[Link to General Apprentice Knowledge Survey](#)

APRIL 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
APPR CLASS - WEEK 23 OF 30				
		6PM ST. CLOUD 292 MTG		
8	9	10	11	12
APPR CLASS - WEEK 24 OF 30				
	5:30PM 292 MTG			
15	16	17	18	19
APPR CLASS - WEEK 25 OF 30				
		10AM 292 CONTRACT VOTE		9AM JATC MTG
22	23	24	25	26
APPR CLASS - WEEK 26 OF 30				
			4:30PM LATE TC MTG	
29	30			
APPR CLASS - WEEK 27 OF 30				

Ask a Senior Sparky

Each month we will present questions anonymously from the apprentices to the 292 Retiree Group. They will choose one to respond to in a future newsletter. If you would like to submit a question for consideration, please drop it off at the front desk or email to Anna at amarx@mplsjatc.org.

Dear Senior Sparky,

I am a newer apprentice, and don't fully know the ins and outs of the industry yet, but I get asked to skip afternoon break. What is the best way to handle this? I like the crew and the foreman, but I want to make sure I am doing the right thing.

Sincerely, Apprentice

Dear Apprentice,

I know this is difficult to resolve on the job. It takes a united effort by the guys and gals on the jobsite to all stay in agreement to take breaks. I took my break even though some guys did not.

Taking breaks is an item fought for as part of our working agreement. If we don't take breaks we will lose them. It is a choice to follow the agreement and stand up for what's right. I wouldn't want to work for a shop or foreman that doesn't follow the agreement.

Sincerely, Senior Sparky

Thank you to the Retirees for their insight & wisdom from many years of experience in the electrical field.

Home Stretch!

After this month, there are only three full school weeks left of class for the 2023-2024 academic year!



IDEAL National Championship Qualifier Returns

On Thursday, May 9th, IDEAL will be back at the JATC to hold a qualifying round event for Apprentices for the 2024 IDEAL National Championship. Winners on May 9th can win cash prizes and advancement to the semi-finals.

Last year, one of our own apprentices, Jose Renteria, won 1st place in the finals of the Apprentice Showdown, securing a trophy and an impressive cash prize of \$40,000.

If you are interested in competing in this qualifying event, you can do so between 7:30-11:30am on May 9th here in the Commons. If you do not have school on Thursday, you can discuss with your instructor if it's possible to switch days for that week.

Good luck to all who compete!



APPRENTICE SHOWDOWN

Official notice with additional details posted in classrooms.

Apprentice Photo Contest Winner



Just another day at the office.

Here is one of our fantastic apprentices installing some 600 kcmil copper conductors.

Our selected jobsite photo this month comes from 5th year apprentice, Melissa Pasicznyk.

Apprentices can submit one photo per month for the contest to Nicole at noconnor@mplsjatc.org. Be sure your photo is work appropriate with proper PPE and abides by OSHA standards. Photos may be shared on our social media accounts.

Upcoming Affinity Group Meetings & Events

EWMC 4/22 Meeting at 292 Hall at 5pm

RENEW 4/23 Meeting at 292 Hall at 4:30pm

SIS 4/25 Volunteering at 2nd Harvest Heartland from 6-8pm

Vets 4/16 Meeting at 292 Hall at 5pm