



People and Places

WILLIE DANIELS, SCOTTSBURG ELECTRIC UTILITY

Willie Daniels

October 2021 Edition

Willie Daniels has recently been promoted to Superintendent of the Scottsburg Electric Utility and appointed to serve on the IMEA Board of Directors. Working for the City of Scottsburg for the past nine years, Willie has progressed up in the lineman field and stayed active in IMEA Mutual Aid program, safety training and other certification classes.

Prior to his new role as Superintendent, Willie served as the Distribution Foreman. He enjoys working in the field and keeping the utility working effectively and efficiently. "We have a great crew at Scottsburg Electric and I know that the Superintendent role will be one that will have more office time, but I'll still be out working and learning, as I want the rest of the crew to do as well. I love learning new things and staying busy, and it is a good thing because we are doing a lot of both right now as a utility and with my new role".

Taking Pride in Being a Member of the IMEA

Serving on the IMEA Board of Directors, Daniels will be assisting in the continued efforts to grow the organization. I want to continue sharing the vision and goals of the IMEA by helping the organization grow, not only for IMEA, but for the communities to have the best training and resources for their utility. IMEA has proven they have qualified, and skilled trainers and I want to continue to build on those positives and enhance the training and resources available.

That includes continued education for our lineman, our future lineman and the continued safety training for all.

The resources and training available through the IMEA are exceptional, Willie stated, "I feel I can say that openly and honestly because I have attended every program, I've been able to attend. As an electric utility and electric organization we have to stay active, engaged and ahead of the storm and the only way is to properly educate, train and be mindful of safety at all times."

Overall, Daniels closes with, "IMEA has been an amazing asset to the City of Scottsburg and our lineman. They offer proper training and other resources including mutual aid, knowledge on legislation and any other needs and if I have a question, I know I can get an answer from the staff. The best part about being a member of IMEA, and now on the Board of Directors, is I know I can be proud to work for the City of Scottsburg because we are part of IMEA and for the great staff we have working at the city and now being able to represent the IMEA and share their vision and goals is an even greater honor."

On a personal level, Daniels is married, a father of two daughters, two stepdaughters and a stepson, along with one granddaughter. When not at work, Daniels enjoys; hunting, fishing, farming, being active in his church and spending time with this family.

eSource - Personal Protective Equipment

What is personal protective equipment?

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Personal protective equipment may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, or coveralls, vests and full body suits.

What can be done to ensure proper use of personal protective equipment?

All personal protective equipment should be safely designed and constructed and should be maintained in a clean and reliable fashion. It should fit comfortably, encouraging worker use. If the personal protective equipment does not fit properly, it can make the difference between being safely covered or dangerously exposed. When engineering, work practice, and administrative controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, employers must provide personal protective equipment to their workers and ensure its proper use. Employers are also required to train each worker required to use personal protective equipment to know:

- When it is necessary
- What kind is necessary
- How to properly put it on, adjust, wear and take it off
- The limitations of the equipment
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the equipment

If PPE is to be used, a PPE program should be implemented. This program should address the hazards present; the selection, maintenance, and use of PPE; the training of employees; and monitoring of the program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness

Employer Responsibilities

OSHA's primary personal protective equipment standards are in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1910 Subpart I, and equivalent regulations in states with OSHA approved state plans, but you can find protective equipment requirements elsewhere in the General Industry Standards. For example, 29 CFR 1910.156, OSHA's Fire Brigades Standard, has requirements for firefighting gear. In addition, 29 CFR 1926.95-106 covers the construction industry. OSHA's general personal protective equipment requirements mandate that employers conduct a hazard assessment of their workplaces to determine what hazards are present that require the use of protective equipment, provide workers with appropriate protective equipment, and require them to use and maintain it in sanitary and reliable condition.



Using personal protective equipment is often essential, but it is generally the last line of defense after engineering controls, work practices, and administrative controls. Engineering controls involve physically changing a machine or work environment. Administrative controls involve changing how or when workers do their jobs, such as scheduling work and rotating workers to reduce exposures. Work practices involve training workers how to perform tasks in ways that reduce their exposure to workplace hazards.

As an employer, you must assess your workplace to determine if hazards are present that require the use of personal protective equipment. If such hazards are present, you must select protective equipment and require workers to use it, communicate your protective equipment selection decisions to your workers, and select personal protective equipment that properly fits your workers.

You must also train workers who are required to wear personal protective equipment on how to do the following:

- Use protective equipment properly,
- Be aware of when personal protective equipment is necessary,
- Know what kind of protective equipment is necessary,
- Understand the limitations of personal protective equipment in protecting workers from injury,
- Put on, adjust, wear, and take off personal protective equipment, and
- Maintain protective equipment properly.

From My Desk

Duane Richardson, IMEA Executive Director

There are over 75 OSHA Standards that address the need and use for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). While PPE use will prevent injuries, engineering controls should be the primary methods used to eliminate or minimize hazard exposure in the workplace. When controls are not practical or applicable, personal protective equipment must be used to reduce or eliminate personnel exposure to hazards. Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be provided, used, and maintained when it has been determined that its use is required.

Hazards in the workplace are a fact of life. No one can dispute there's the need for personal protective equipment in the electric utility industry. PPE is NOT a personal choice, it's mandated by OSHA and if you choose not to use it, your attitude may be the biggest hazard of all.

It's estimated that nearly 70% of the injuries in the electric utility can be attributed to the misuse or no use of PPE, clearly not an acceptable number. Indiana Municipals make up a portion of that percentage for 2021, fortunately the individuals involved didn't sustain any serious injuries; however, they all could have been fatal.



So, do we start our day with luck or safety? The answer isn't by leaving it up to luck, it must be a conscious decision to be safety minded.

"Every little detail matters. No little detail can be overlooked." – Rae Johnson, National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen (NSUJL).

If you have any questions on the standards governing PPE or any other standards, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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ASSOCIATE MEMBER!**

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