

Fire Safety and Photovoltaic Systems

Program Overview:

IBEW Local 134 offers training in Solar Energy Technology to a variety of stakeholders. One facet of this training program involves outreach to allied professionals, specifically Electrical Inspectors and Fire Departments. The presentation outlined below addresses the concerns of the firefighting community and raises awareness about solar electric systems. The Chicago area has benefited from a rapid adoption of solar electric technologies, with or without energy storage, due to robust state incentives and is positioned to be a leader in the Midwest moving forward. Structures that have renewable energy systems deployed on or in them can create challenges to first responders and the current electrical and fire codes have addressed these issues. This program is designed to bring allied professionals up to speed on current technologies and to encourage municipalities to adopt the most recent codes to ensure public safety.

Program Objectives:

- Photovoltaic (PV) industry overview including installation process
- PV system identification
- PV hazard awareness and mitigation
- Energy storage and battery hazard awareness
- Electrical and Fire Code updates

Presenter Bio:

Bob Hattier is a Business Representative for IBEW Local 134 and the Master Trainer for the Illinois IBEW Renewable Energy Fund. During his 20 years in the solar industry, he has been involved with numerous renewable energy projects ranging from off grid cabins to residential, commercial and utility scale interactive systems. These systems ranged in size from 200 Watts to 10 Megawatts. Bob, a Supervising Electrician, holds many industry specific credentials including NABCEP's PV Installation Professional, PV Technical Sales Professional and PV System Inspector certifications. Additionally, he is the only IREC PV Master Trainer in the Midwest. Along with renewable energy classes, Bob teaches courses on Energy Storage, Electric Vehicle Charging and Green Building throughout the region.

Delivery Options:

- 1) Course offered on three consecutive days to cover all shifts.
- 2) Course offered as a one time class for key personnel.

Program Format:

Lecture and PowerPoint presentation (2 hours)
Product displays
Question and Answer