



The NETCO Minute

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NETCO is jointly sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Canada and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) to address workforce development for Red Seal electrical trades. www.netco.org

Training Centre of Excellence Showcase



IBEW 2085
EMPOWERING MANITOBA & NUNAVUT'S
CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIANS

www.ibew2085.com

IBEW Local 2085

Virtual Reality for Electrical Safety



IBEW Local 2085 in Manitoba has developed virtual reality software for electrical safety training, and the technology is now available for use by all NETCO members.

"The program exposes people to the hazards of the trade without putting them at risk," said Training Director Chris Taran, RSE, in an interview. "We can train people wherever they are located, and that's especially useful for people in remote communities."

The software package through a partnership with Bit Space, a Winnipeg-based developer. When the user straps on the virtual-reality goggles, they can explore a 360-degree rendering of a Manitoba construction site.

"Specific hazards are scattered through the site," said Taran. "Each hazard is highlighted with a green beacon. There's a video, a writeup or a testimonial embedded into each beacon to show how the people in the scenario are behaving correctly or incorrectly."

The Safety VR program is used at the Local 2085 Training Centre to orient trainees who have never been on a construction site before. At the end of each session, participants stay in the virtual environment to complete a quiz.

"In Manitoba, we can't take these entry level people on to the job site," said Taran. "This software brings them as close to a live situation as possible – without the actual risk."

Safety VR is a useful tool at career fairs or in rural and remote communities to show off the electrical trades to young people or adults in mid-career. The software can be stored in an Apple or Android smart phone, which can then be loaded into the VR goggles. No network connection is required.

Safety VR is available to NETCO members in its Manitoba version or on a customized basis.

"If you want to make changes, you're looking at a tenth the normal cost of developing a virtual reality program," said Daniel Blair, the CEO at Bit Space. "We have a repeatable framework, a freely available course from Local 2085, and an agreement to support customization for NETCO members at a reduced rate."

To find out more about Safety VR, contact Chris Taran, RSE, Training Director, Local 2085 at ctaran@ibewtraining.com



Chris Taran, RSE, started his career in the electrical industry in 1995. He obtained his Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal Endorsement in 2000. After several years working at his trade his focus shifted to teaching as a trade's instructor and in 2012, he was appointed the Directors of Apprenticeship and Training IBEW Local 2085. As a leader in the apprenticeship field he is responsible for curriculum, training delivery, staff and organizational partnerships. He is a member of NETCO's National Training Committee. This is a graduate of the Technical Vocational Teacher program from Red River College and is currently completing his Business Management degree from the University of Winnipeg

NETCO News From Across Canada



2019
Training Conference

VANCOUVER AUGUST 10/11 2019
Westin Bayshore Hotel



<http://www.cvent.com/d/fbqr6h>

- Registration and Sponsorship is now OPEN for the NETCO 2019 Training Conference being held August 10 & 11th, 2019 in Vancouver, BC at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. Be sure to register and book your hotel now as spots are filling fast.



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