

CASE STUDY

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA



Whether they're restoring storm damaged distribution lines, expanding the power grid, or keeping everything running smoothly, Southern Power District (SPD) crews use Sonetics Wireless Headsets to get the job done sooner without compromising safety.

CREWS SHUT DOWN EQUIPMENT TO TALK

Working around loud equipment in Nebraska's challenging weather, Southern Power District utility crews were having trouble hearing and understanding each other. Those problems led to safety concerns and a lot of time lost to misunderstandings. In order to stay in sync, crews had to shut down equipment for frequent communication 'huddles'.

"There's a lot of communication involved in the work we do," said SPD Safety Director, Todd Bailey. Noise from chippers, excavators, diesel engines and other equipment combine to make even basic communication an exercise in frustration. "We spent a lot of extra time talking and waving hard hats. There was a lot of 'what?' going on, causing misunderstandings," Bailey said.

WIRELESS HEADSETS CONNECT TEAMS AND PROTECT HEARING

Sonetics Wireless Headsets let SPD crews communicate naturally; normal voices have replaced shouting and hand signals up and down

the line. With the unique combination of integrated hearing protection, simultaneous two-way voice communication, and hands-free operation, crews can problem-solve and coordinate complex tasks like line pulling and pole installations without shutting down equipment in order to hear each other.

SPD crews also integrate their two-way radios and Bluetooth® mobile phones with their systems to connect supervisors and offsite personnel. "We can recognize hazards and discuss it with the crew without having to shut everything down," said Bailey. "Everybody can hear the conversation. Now that we have Sonetics, the only thing stopping us is not talking to each other."

ABOUT SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT

With only 60 crew members covering seven counties in a 4,000 square mile service area of South Central Nebraska, Southern Power District crews are called on for construction, installation, maintenance and restoration services on more than 7,100 miles of transmission, distribution and subtransmission lines.

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