

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. To the right of the NECA logo, the text "North Florida Chapter" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "CONNECTION" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a dark blue gradient with a complex network of glowing blue lines and dots, resembling a circuit board or a digital network.

# NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

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## Board of Directors

**President:** Brent Zimmerman

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**Director:** Scott Sullivan

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**Director:** Brad Giles

**Treasurer:** Chad Walker

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## Membership Meeting

North Florida Chapter NECA's first quarter membership meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 21st, at 11:30 a.m.** at the North Florida NECA office, in the upstairs training room. Jeff Sharkey, CEO/President of Capitol Alliance Group will be joining us to give our members a Legislative Update for the year.

[RSVP Here!](#)

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## North Florida Chapter NECA Interest Survey

**We want your feedback!**

We are urging our members to participate in this short survey about the topics you would like see more of from North Florida Chapter NECA and the classes you would like to attend.

[Click here to take this short survey](#)

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## Codes and Standards Report

# Electrical Safety in 2025

As we start 2025 and get busy with running our businesses and all that it requires to be in the electrical industry, let us please not forget about safety and protecting our workers. Here are a few items that we need to continuously drive home with our employees:

## De-energize

De-energize – Be Proactive About Your Safety and Power down whenever possible. Working on energized equipment greatly increases your risk of injury and death. The number one way to prevent electrical injuries and fatalities is to de-energize the equipment being worked on. It may take a little more time and planning, but your life and your health are worth it. Be proactive about de-energizing equipment and taking steps to ensure that your work environment remains safe.

## Lockout / Tagout

Each day, nearly 3 million professionals participate in work activities where lockout/tagout procedures should be used. Unfortunately, too many workers still put themselves unnecessarily at risk by working energized or neglecting to follow their company's lockout/tagout procedures. Failure to comply with the lockout/tagout standard is listed as one of the top OSHA violations year after year.

Lockout/tagout procedures safeguard workers from the unexpected energization, or startup, of machinery and equipment. They can also prevent the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities.

Always de-energizing and following established lockout/tagout procedures saves lives. Compliance with OSHA's lockout/tagout procedure prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year.

Workers injured on the job from exposure to hazardous energy lose an average of 24 days of work to recuperation.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment is Your Last Line of Defense

Workers often find themselves in environments where they are exposed to unseen electrical hazards. In the event of a momentary electric arc, flash fire or exposure to energized equipment, a worker can find himself completely unprotected against forces that cause severe or fatal injuries. Everyday work clothes can ignite and will continue to burn even after the source of ignition has been removed. Normal clothes will continue to burn until the fabric is totally consumed causing severe contact burns to the skin.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is your last line of defense and will be the major factor in differentiating between an electrical event you walk away from and one that requires months of painful healing. PPE comes in many different forms, including: hard hats, gloves, goggles, safety shoes, flame-resistant shirts and pants, safety glasses, face shields, fall protection equipment, etc.

Be sure to choose the PPE that is right for you and your circumstances. PPE should be:

- Appropriate for the hazard
- Worn as the outermost layer
- Worn CORRECTLY; zipped, buttoned, etc
- Maintained properly and removed from service when needed

## Test Before You Touch

Every year, workers are injured or killed by circuits they thought were safely turned off. Simply shutting off the power is not enough. Hazardous conditions can still exist. Make sure to always test the circuit. You may not get a second chance to learn this important lesson. Most electrically-related fatalities and injuries could easily be avoided. Responsibility for your safety begins with you. Take steps to protect yourself everyday and make safety an integral part of how you do business.

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## JATC Apprenticeship Reports

### Jacksonville JATC

To the members of the North Florida Chapter of N.E.C.A. -

January 2025 has us at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville busier than ever! Our 5th Year apprentices are in currently transitioning to Journeyman Wireman and should be completed in February. Our 4th Year apprentices are transitioning to the 5th Year curriculum and will be completed in the Spring.

We took in 83 apprentices for the January class. This will give us three classes of 1st Year apprentices that will begin their first class on January 15th. Combined with the class that started in the Fall, we will have a total of 149 1st Year apprentices.

We will also begin a Medium Voltage Splicing class for Journeyman Wireman on February 10th. This course will two months long and there are spots still available. If you know of a journeyman wireman interested in becoming a certified cable splicer, please have them contact us for more information or have them visit our website [www.etajax.org](http://www.etajax.org).

As a reminder, we take applications year round and if you know anyone who may be interested in beginning a career in the electrical trade, please have them visit our website at [www.etajax.org](http://www.etajax.org) to begin the application process.

As always, I am here to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me if I can help with anything. On behalf of the Trustees of the Apprenticeship Committee, thank you for your continuing support.

Daniel Van Sickle  
Apprenticeship and Training Director

Daniel McEachern  
Assistant Training Director

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## ELECTRI Research Report

### Contract Benchmarking & Analytics 2024 Document Crunch Report

In partnership with ELECTRI International, Document Crunch has endeavored to bring transparency to the contracting standards impacting the electrical construction industry. This 2024 analysis also includes the prior work done in order to provide context and show the evolving nature of this research.

For 2024, the research continues with a new approach. The 2023 study was conducted throughout the year, with findings shared at year-end. The 2024 findings will be published quarterly, starting with Q3. In this third quarter, 97 companies from 29 NECA chapters uploaded 376 contracts. Of those, 150 contracts were randomly selected for the study.

Additionally, a new feature called Chat was introduced into the Document Crunch platform, giving NECA chapter members access to the power of generative AI by enabling them to “chat” with their contracts on the spot. This tool allows users to spot and assess contractual issues more efficiently by engaging directly with the contract language. 21 of the 29 chapters involved signed up and are using this feature.

What is included in the report are the results of the Q3 2024 benchmarking study, alongside comparisons to the 2023 findings and the 2022 pilot study results.

[Get the full report here!](#)

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## Looking Forward

- **January 15-17th, 2025:** *ELECTRI Winter Council Meeting in La Quinta, CA*
  - **January 21st, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
  - **February 20-21st, 2025:** *Future Leaders Conference in Nashville, TN*
  - **April 7-9th, 2025:** *NECA Now in Hollywood, FL*
  - **April 15th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
  - **August 26th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
  - **April 28-30th, 2025:** *Legislative Conference in Washington DC*
  - **July 14-16th, 2025:** *ELECTRI Summer Council Meeting in Toronto, Canada*
  - **September 12-15th, 2025:** *NECA Convention & Trade Show in Chicago, IL*
  - **December 5th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting & Holiday Party*
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