Vol. 6, No. 4 April 2024

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Upcoming Education Opportunities

Construction Risk Management

Over the past 4 years, the insurance industry has undergone tremendous changes which have had a significant impact on insurance premiums. The construction industry, in particular, has been especially impacted by insurance premium volatility. Catherine Wells, a nationally recognized construction risk management expert, will discuss the reasons behind rising premiums, what are the greatest emerging risks in today's market, and what contractors can do to navigate these industry challenges. Please come ready to discuss your questions as this will be an interactive forum to troubleshoot issues and form actionable plans to minimize future impacts on your bottom line.

Catherine has 35 years of experience in insurance and risk management including commercial insurance underwriting, insurance brokerage, workers' compensation claims administration, public entity risk management, and risk management consulting with a specialty in risk financing issues. She has extensive risk management experience for both operational and construction programs for cities, states, and local governments, authorities, and others.

Date: **June 4th, 2024. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Location: North Florida Chapter NECA office: 4951 Richard St. Jacksonville, FL 32207

This class will immediately follow a North Florida Chapter NECA Membership Meeting.

RSVP Here

Planned for August- Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts

This August, we will be welcoming Karalynn Cromeens, Managing Partner and Owner of The Crowmeens Law Firm, to speak at our office on the topic of Subcontracting. Karalynn holds more than 17 years of experience practicing construction, real estate, and business law. With her extensive experience within the construction and real estate industries, Karalynn provides her clients with innovative legal strategies and services necessary to protect their rights. Karalynn will be here to educate and inform subcontractors on the importance of understanding what they are signing, negotiating a fair subcontract, and understanding their lien and collections rights.

Please keep an eye out for more information in the near future about this class!

Emergency Management Response Quiz

Everyone should be familiar with emergency management systems and response. OSHA will be releasing new emergency management response regulations in the near future. How much do you know about this topic? Click here to take the Emergency Management Response Quiz by NECA's Executive Director of Safety, Wesley Wheeler on Electrical Contractor Magazine.com.

Wiring and Cabling Safety

Tips for Avoiding Electrical Hazards, Falls, and More

You can't have electricity and telecommunications without wiring and cable. With proper training, understanding any dangers and executing basic safety practices, electrical contractors can drastically reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring while running wire and cable.

Electrocution:

It should come as no surprise that the top hazard electrical workers and cabling contractors face is electrocution. Fire and explosion caused by overload and arc flash can also happen. Electricians and individuals working on or near electricity should already be well-versed in electrical hazards, relevant regulations and appropriate safety protocols. Workers should avoid working in wet areas; stay away from overhead power lines; inspect wiring, elements, components and outlets for damage; and use ground fault circuit interrupters. These portable devices can be plugged into an outlet or circuit to kill the power as a final failsafe in the event something else goes wrong.

A safety plan should address relevant hazards, emergency response duties and safe evacuation procedures, and ensure that all Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, building codes and safety protocols will be adhered to.

As a refresher, electrical workers and cabling contractors should abide by all NFPA 70E guidelines. This is especially true for lockout/tagout. Additionally, the appropriate personal protective equipment and insulated rubber wear must be worn for the task at hand. Workers and employers should be familiar with OSHA's general industry Electrical Safety Standard 1910.137(b)(2) addressing PPE and its construction industry Electrical Safety Standard 1926.431 covering explosive-proofing.

They should also be familiar with 1926.416(a)(3), which identifies employer responsibilities, such as labeling circuits with easy-to-see signage to warn workers before starting work in an area with a live circuit and to locate and inspect circuits regularly.

In addition, it is imperative that workers always use the right tools. For wiring and cable installers, this may include a voltage tester, wire cutters, wire/cable strippers, needle-nose pliers and continuity testers, among others.

Utility workers installing underground cable may require a wire trencher, excavator or other heavy machinery. (Note: underground cable installation may require additional safety precautions addressing trenching, shoring and excavating.)

Click here to read the full article.

Codes and Standards Report

Powering Preparedness: The Role Electrical Contractors Play in Generator Safety and Reliability

Emergency preparedness is crucial for individuals, communities, and organizations to effectively respond to and mitigate the impact of various unforeseen events, such as natural disasters, power outages, and other emergencies. It involves planning, organizing, and implementing measures to minimize potential risks and ensure the safety and well-being of people, infrastructure, and essential services.

One essential aspect of emergency preparedness is the installation of backup power systems. These systems play a vital role in providing electricity during power outages. Generators are indispensable assets for various industries, emergency services, and residential applications, providing backup power during outages and powering critical systems. However, their operation entails inherent risks, including electrical hazards and potential malfunctions that could compromise safety and reliability. In this context, electrical contractors play a crucial role in upholding generator safety standards and ensuring their reliable performance. This article explores the vital responsibilities of electricians and the significance of their contributions in promoting generator safety and reliability.

Conducting Thorough Inspections

Electrical contractors are responsible for installing all aspects of back-up electrical systems, components, and connections as part of the generator system, to ensure compliance with relevant codes and standards. They install the wiring, grounding, control panels, and protective devices. Through this process, the electrician can identify and mitigate potential hazards such as faulty wiring, improper grounding, or inadequate protection devices, which could lead to electrical shocks, fires, or equipment failure.

Verifying Compliance with Codes and Standards

Electrical Contractors must be well-versed in the applicable codes and standards during installation, such as the National Electrical Code (NEC) and manufacturer guidelines. They assess generators against these regulations to confirm proper installation, sizing, ventilation, fuel storage, and exhaust systems. They also ensure that the generator is located in a safe and accessible area, away from combustible materials, and protected against environmental elements.

Reviewing Safety Features and Systems

During commissioning and start-up, electricians thoroughly examine and test safety features incorporated within generators. This includes inspecting automatic transfer switches (ATS), which facilitate a seamless transition from utility power to generator power during outages, preventing dangerous backfeeding scenarios. They also assess the functionality of ATS devices, ensuring they are properly installed, wired, and interconnected to safeguard against accidents and injuries.

Assessing Grounding and Bonding

Proper grounding and bonding are fundamental to the safe operation of generators. The inspection of grounding systems to verify that they meet the required specifications is critical to the overall safety of the system. Electricians also ensure that generators are correctly bonded to provide a low-resistance path for fault currents, safeguarding personnel and equipment.

Inspecting Fuel Systems

Fuel systems are critical components of generators, and their safe operation is essential. The review of fuel storage, transfer, and containment systems ensures compliance with applicable codes. As part of this, the fuel tanks, pipes, fittings, and connections must be inspected, looking for signs of leaks or other potential hazards. By ensuring the integrity of the fuel systems, electricians help prevent fuel-related accidents, fires, or environmental contamination. Additionally, the amount of fuel must be checked to make sure that there is sufficient backup fuel where systems are used in critical areas – such as hospitals.

Identifying Maintenance Requirements

When maintaining generators and the related backup systems, electricians play a vital role in assessing the overall condition of generators and identifying maintenance needs. They inspect and evaluate the integrity of generator components, including engines, alternators, cooling systems, and control panels. By identifying potential maintenance requirements, electricians help prevent unexpected breakdowns, improve reliability, and extend the lifespan of the generator.

In short, electricians serve as guardians of generator safety and reliability. Their quality installations, maintenance and thorough inspections, compliance verifications, testing, and meticulous assessments play a crucial role in identifying potential hazards and ensuring that generators meet safety codes and standards. By actively promoting generator safety and reliability, electrical contractors contribute to the protection of personnel, the prevention of accidents, and the uninterrupted functioning of critical systems. Their expertise and commitment help instill confidence in generator operators and end-users, ensuring that these valuable power assets perform optimally when they are needed most.

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

The first round of interviews for the 2024-2025 year will begin on April 11th here at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville. At the time this writing, we have over 200 applications submitted for our training program. This number exceeds the amount of applications we received at this time last year. Application deadline is May 23rd, so if you know anyone that may be interested in a career in the electrical industry please have them visit our website at www.etajax.org .

The Journeyman Cable Splicing Course was concluded on March 7th with eight journeyman completing this eight week course. Congratulations to them for all of their hard work and effort.

As a reminder, graduation will be held on May 10th at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. This year we will have 54 graduating from our Inside Program and 2 graduating from our VDV program.

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

ELECTRI Research Report

Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Overview 2024

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) has created the new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) standard that will be required for corporations and entities that want to bid as a contractor, or act as a subcontractor, for DoD projects. This whitepaper is designed to give electrical and mechanical contractor corporate leaders and their IT Directors an overview of the CMMC 2.0 standard. This paper will also answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the CMMC 2.0 and cut through much of the confusion and technical jargon that has surrounded the CMMC since its launch in January 2020 as CMMC 1.0.

CMMC 2.0 levels 1 and 2 utilize a Cybersecurity framework known as NIST 800-171. This framework has been an evolving standard in Cybersecurity since the 1990s. It is considered the "gold standard" by many in the Cybersecurity community because it is robust in its identification of what areas of an organization need to be properly secured.

Below is the NIST Special Publication for 800-171 Revision 2 Cybersecurity Framework for reference. Each of the 14 Control Families has a variety of associated practices that equate to 110 Security Controls supporting 320 Objectives for security. In order to achieve Level 2 certification, this is what must be implemented, documented, reviewed and managed with supporting evidence:

Click here to access the 14 CMMC Control Family Videos (each family up to level 2) from ELECTRI International on Vimeo. These videos include the 14 Control Families:

- Access Control
- Awareness and Training
- Audit and Accountability
- Configuration Management
- Identification and Authentication
- Incident Response
- Maintenance
- Media Protection
- Personnel Security
- Physical Protection
- Risk Assessment
- Security Assessment
- System and Communications Protection
- System and Information Integrity

Click here to access practical video guides from ELECTRI International on Vimeo. These guides include topics:

- Implementing Backups
- Key IT and Security Management
- Network and User Policies
- Next Generation Firewalls
- Spam Filter

Click here to access a thread of documents that are the official resources sourced from either the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). These documents are foundational to any organization embarking on their CMMC journey. While additional documents exist, these serve as key reference points that IT professionals can readily grasp, even without extensive CMMC or cybersecurity training.

Looking Forward

- **April 8th-10th, 2024: *ELECTRI International Connection Summit in Roatan, Honduras***
- **April 15th-17th, 2024: *NECA EMERGE Conference in Las Vegas, NV***
- **May 1st-2nd, 2024: *Large Contractors Spring Meeting in Santa Fe, NM***
- **May 6th-8th, 2024: *National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC***
- **May 20th-22nd, 2024: *Safety Professionals Conference in Denver, CO***
- **June 4th, 2024: *Risk Management in Construction Class in Jacksonville, FL***
- **June 21st-24th, 2024: *Southern Regional Conference in Banff, Alberta Canada***
- **July 15th-17th, 2024: *ELECTRI Council July Meeting in Boston, MA***
- **July 17th-19th, 2024: *Labor Relations Conference in Boston, MA***
- **September 28th-October 1st, 2024: *NECA Convention and Trade Show in San Diego, CA***

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