

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized wave and three stars above the letters 'NECA'. To the right of this is the text 'North Florida Chapter' in a white serif font, and below that, the word 'CONNECTION' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background of the logo area is a dark blue 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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Upcoming Course Offerings

Change Order Management (Part 1)

Effective change order management can dramatically reduce a subcontractor's risk and increase profitability. This four-hour interactive course explores the change order process from a subcontractor's view point and provides participants with hands on training in recognizing, scoping, pricing, and negotiating change orders. This course culminates in a mock negotiation where participants can immediately practice the skills that they have learned. Attendees to include field leaders, project administrators, project engineers, project managers, project executives, group/branch executives, financial managers, owners.

[RSVP Here!](#)

Monday, August 29th, 2022.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 .m.

Virtual Class

Building The Case to Win- Claims and Change Orders (Part 2)

In this session, the group will discuss contract risk management and preservation of rights in order to increase the chances of financial recovery during project execution. Since the most valued information for contract conflict resolution come from those closest to the work, the basics of preparing that documentation and effectively translating the information will be discussed. The group will gain understanding and review examples of risky contract clauses, the process of claims management, the legalities of change order control, and preparation for lawsuits. Attendees to include field leaders, project

administrators, project engineers, project managers, project executives, group/branch executives, financial managers, owners.

[RSVP Here!](#)

Tuesday, August 30th, 2022.
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Class

The Art of Clear Communication: Get What You Want, When You Want It

True success in the workplace is the ability to achieve desired results through positive interaction and the willing cooperation of others. Learn how to develop synergy, build strengths, and enhance interpersonal skills by focusing on communication techniques to foster teamwork and get results.

Monday, September 19th, 2022.
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Will be held at the North Florida NECA office
Masks Required per instructor's request

Technology Trends That Drive Success

By 2020 Internet-connected devices will grow from 400 million today to 50 billion and smart phones will have the capability of storing and accessing as much information as IBM's supercomputers. Technology will be even more critical in gaining new customers and recruiting key employees as everyone (employees, clients and competitors) will have hand-held access to the biggest, smartest, fastest computers in existence today and the workforce you hire has never lived without technology. Successful contractors understand the positive impact that technology has on business processes, the ability to respond to change, cost savings, efficiency and the bottom line. Attendees to include field leaders, project administrators, project engineers, project managers, project executives, group/branch executives, financial managers, owners.

Wednesday, November 9th, 2022.
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Class

Human Performance - Its Role in Electrical Operations and Safety Excellence

Studies show that the likelihood of a serious event being linked to human performance is 90 - 95% versus equipment failure 5 - 10%. Opportunities exist to significantly raise awareness in employees leading to behavior change. This program is designed to raise awareness to those behaviors that put our employees, operations and the public at risk.

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022.
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Will be held at the North Florida NECA office

Registration for NECA Austin 2022 is now open!



Registration Is Now Open!

NECA is excited to announce that registration has opened for the 2022 NECA Convention & Trade Show in Austin, TX. This is the electrical construction industry's premier event. Attendees will gain access to industry-leading education, top-notch speakers, networking, entertainment and North America's largest Electrical Construction trade show.

*NECA Austin 2022 will be held **Oct. 15-18, 2022** at the Austin Convention Center.*

If you are interested in registering and would like the Chapter to assist you in your registration, please reach out to our office and we would be happy to assist you! Early registration ends on August 3rd, register soon to get the best prices on registration and hotels in Austin!

Asbestos/Air Quality Review by COJ's Environmental Quality Division

To ensure the City of Jacksonville's compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency's standards for the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), demolition and renovation projects will often require review by the Environmental Quality Division (EQD). The review of these projects by EQD may require the submission of an asbestos survey of the building and/or space.

For more information about these requirements or to determine if your project will require an asbestos survey, please reach out to the EQD staff at Asbestos@coj.net.

The following information outlines scopes of work that require, or do not require, an Asbestos/Air Quality review:

Not Required

An Asbestos/Air Quality Review is not required for the demolition or renovation:

- to a single one- or two-family structure, or
- of a single three- or four-unit residential building.

EXCEPTION: If multiple buildings of these types are in close proximity and being demolished as a group, even if on different parcels, an Asbestos/Air Quality Review will be required. Also, if a building has ever been used for commercial purposes, even if currently residential, it will require an Asbestos/Air Quality review.

Required

An Asbestos/Air Quality Review is required for the demolition* or renovation of

- a commercial building or space, or
- a residential building of 5 or more units.

*The NESHAP definition of demolition includes alteration/repair projects that involve of the removal and/or modification of structural elements.

An Asbestos/Air Quality Review is required for the following scopes of work/renovations that require the removal of existing materials:

- Tenant Buildout
- Converting Use
- Alteration and Repair

*Joshua Gideon
Chief, Building Inspection Division
City of Jacksonville | Planning and Development Department*

Legislative Updates

➤ **Sweeping Tax Package**

The legislature's robust tax package delivers \$1.1 billion in broad-based tax savings to families across the state over two years, with a focus on long- and short-term sales tax relief. The legislation results in savings for Floridians who are preparing for the upcoming 2022 Hurricane Season and the 2022-2023 school year, raising young children, purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances or skilled worker tools; as well as, individuals and families enjoying outdoor activities and events. With gas prices at an all-time high, a month-long gas tax holiday will provide relief for every Floridian who drives a car. The bill also eliminates property taxes for homeowners who suffered losses in the Champlain Towers condominium collapse in Surfside, Florida, and expands existing property tax relief for deployed military service members, widows, widowers and blind or disabled Floridians. The tax package includes the following:

- **Establishes the 2022 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** - The legislation creates a 14-day "back-to-school" sales tax holiday from July 25 – August 7, 2022, for clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$100 or less, school supplies and learning aids costing \$50 or less, and personal computers or computer-related accessories, including non-recreational software costing \$1,500 or less.
- **Establishes the 2022 Skilled Worker Tools Sales Tax Holiday** - The legislation creates a seven-day sales tax holiday from September 3 – 9, 2022, for certain tools used by skilled trade workers. Tax-free items include certain hand and power tools, work boots, safety equipment, shop lights, toolboxes, and belts, plumbing and electrical equipment, and industry textbooks and codebooks.
- **Establishes the 2022 Gas Tax Holiday** - The legislation creates a month-long fuel tax holiday from October 1 – 31, 2022. The holiday will reduce the tax on motor fuel by \$0.25 per gallon.

Codes and Standards Report

National Suicide Prevention Launches New 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Over the last couple of weeks, 988 officially launched as a new lifeline for suicide and mental health crisis support.

According to a [fact sheet](#), the 988 [Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) will help "people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress" with emotional support. People can call, text, or chat 988 to be connected to one of over 200 crisis centers, some run by the [Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA).

The lifeline is free and confidential. It is open seven days per week, 24 hours per day.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline used to be National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The phone number associated with this name, 1-800-273-8255, "will always remain available," 988's [website](#) says.

Mental health and suicide crisis affect thousands of people every year, including construction workers. Since the start of the pandemic, studies show that the number of workers with mental health issues is increasing. According to a study from [The Standard](#), in 2019, only 39 percent of respondents said they suffer from mental health issues and 7 percent suffered from "serious mental illness." In 2020, 46 percent said they suffered from these issues, and 11 percent were "suffering from serious mental illness."

Suicide rates are also a serious concern. In less than 20 years from 2017, the suicide rate increased by 40 percent for people of working age, according to the [CDC](#). That year, nearly 38,000 people aged 16-64 died from suicide. The top five industries with high suicide rates were estimated as "Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (males); 2) Construction (males); 3) Other Services (e.g., automotive repair) (males); 4) Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting (males); and 5) Transportation and Warehousing (males and females)," the CDC website notes.

Please make sure your employees know about the 988 resource and take notice if you see warning signs in your employees.

The 988 lifeline is available for mental health and suicide crisis support seven days per week, 24 hours per day.

From an article in Occupational Safety and Health - by Alex Saurman - July 19, 2022.

ELECTRI Research Reports

Pandemics and Construction Productivity: Quantifying the Impact - Final Version

A pandemic can have far reaching impacts on the U.S. economy. Companies in once successful industries across the United States have felt the immediate impact of the current pandemic in the most devastating ways.

Early measurements of the impact of this pandemic suggest that construction productivity has been impacted by nearly 20%. A rule of thumb for self-performing contractors is that a 10% impact on productivity results in a 100% impact on profitability and seek equitable adjustments that adequately compensate them for the impact.

This study is divided into three distinct sections:

Part I - Pandemic Mitigation Tracking - specifically quantifies hours associated with preventative measures such as training, health screenings, cleaning and disinfecting, job site access and administration instituted to minimize exposure.

Part II - Productivity Benchmarking - specifically quantifies the reduction in direct work productivity related to social distancing rules, staggered shifts, reduced crew sizes, increased personal protective equipment requirements and related job site regulations.

Part III - Business and Project Impacts - specifically quantifies ancillary impacts experienced by most contractors who participated in this study.

This report includes supporting documents and videos to make it easier to consume the information in the report such as:

- Pandemics and Construction Productivity Study Overview
- Pandemic Mitigation Tracking Overview
- Pandemics and Construction Productivity Study
- Pandemic Business Impacts Overview
- Pandemic Business Impacts Contractors Interview
- Pandemic Change Order Calculator

[**Get the Full Report Here!**](#)

Looking Forward

- **August 22nd, 2022-** *Leadership Dynamics*
 - **August 29th & 30th, 2022-** *Change Order Management Parts 1 & 2 (Virtual)*
 - **September 13th, 2022-** *Membership Meeting*
 - **September 19th, 2022-** *The Art of Clear Communication: Get What You Want When You Want It*
 - **November 9th, 2022-** *Technology Trends That Drive Success (Virtual)*
 - **November 16th, 2022-** *Human Performance and Its Role in Operational and Safety Excellence*
 - **December 2nd, 2022-** *Holiday Party at TopGolf!*
 - **December 2nd, 2022-** *Membership Meeting at TopGolf!*
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phone: 904-636-0663

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