

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized wave and three stars. To its right, the text "North Florida Chapter" is written in a white serif font. Below this, the word "CONNECTION" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background of the logo area is a dark blue with a glowing circuit board pattern.

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

Board of Directors

President: Kevin Flanigan

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Upcoming Education Opportunities

August- Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts

Next month, we will be welcoming Chip Bachara, the Founding and Managing Partner of the Bachara Construction Law Group, to speak at our office on the topic of **Subcontracting**.

Chip Bachara grew up in the construction industry first working as a laborer on his father's residential construction projects. He obtained a degree in Building Construction from the University of Florida and after working for two of the area's largest design/build contractors, obtained his law degree from Mercer University. He returned to Jacksonville in 1987 to specialize in construction law, going on to represent owners, governmental entities and nearly every type of trade contractor in all manner of construction disputes. Currently serving on the Board of The American Subcontractors Association, Chip has been named to Best Lawyers in America every year since 2009 and has been recognized by his peers as the Construction Lawyer of the Year for Jacksonville numerous times, including gaining that recognition for 2025. In 2007, Chip founded Bachara Construction Law Group along with Brent Zimmerman, NECA Board Member and General Counsel for Miller Electric. Bachara Construction Law Group is based in Jacksonville with an office in St. Pete, which serves Florida's west coast.

Chip 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 while reviewing REAL subcontracts submitted by our members.

[RSVP Here!](#)

This class will immediately follow a North Florida NECA Membership Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6th, 2024.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Will be held at the North Florida Chapter NECA office

North Florida NECA Membership Meeting

North Florida Chapter NECA will be holding a Membership Meeting on **Tuesday, August 6th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.** Immediately following this meeting, a class will be held on *Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts*. Please see the section above for more details on this class.

2024 NECA Convention and Trade Show: San Diego

It's that time again, folks!



Registration and housing is open for the *2024 NECA Convention in San Diego!* Early registration pricing ends **TODAY** on **August 1st**, so be sure to register soon to get the best deals and best rooms for your stay in San Diego.

[Click here to register.](#) or feel free to reach out to our office and we would be happy to assist you in the registration process. We are excited to see you all in San Diego!

North Florida NECA Cocktail Reception at the Prohibition Lounge

This year in San Diego, North Florida Chapter NECA will be holding a cocktail reception at the [Prohibition Lounge!](#) We invite our members to stop by and bring your colleagues, business partners, and spouses to the Prohibition Lounge on **Monday, September 30th, 2024**. This will be a flow-thru reception beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Prohibition Lounge: 548 Fifth Ave. San Diego, CA 92101

OSHA Issues Proposed Rule for Extreme Heat Safety



On July 2, The Labor Department released [a proposed rule](#) for employers to mitigate the [health risks of extreme heat](#)—the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the country.

“Workers all over the country are passing out, suffering heat stroke and dying from heat exposure from just doing their jobs, and something must be done to protect them,” said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker in a [July 2024 press release](#). “Today’s proposal is an important next step in the process to receive public input to craft a ‘win-win’ final rule that

protects workers while being practical and workable for employers.”

Under the proposed rule, employers must develop a heat injury and illness prevention plan with site-specific information and designate one or more heat safety coordinators to implement and monitor the plan.

Among other requirements, employers must monitor heat conditions at outdoor work areas by tracking local heat index forecasts provided by the National Weather Service or other reputable sources. At indoor work sites, employers must identify each work area where there is a reasonable expectation that employees are or may be exposed to heat at or above the initial heat trigger of 80°F.

When initial heat triggers are met, employers must provide access to one quart of suitably cool drinking water per worker per hour. Employers must also encourage workers to take paid rest breaks indoors with air-conditioning or fans, and if necessary, dehumidifiers, or rest breaks outdoors under natural shade or artificial shade under tents—but not shade from equipment.

When high heat triggers are met—90°F for indoors and outdoors, as set by the National Weather Service—employers must provide workers a minimum 15-minute paid rest break at least every two hours in the break area.

Employers must observe workers for [signs and symptoms of heat-related illness](#) by either implementing a co-worker buddy system or having supervisors or heat safety coordinators observe. For [solo workers](#), employers must contact them at least every two hours to make sure they’re OK and keep lines of communication open at all times in case of emergency.

Workers must be trained and periodically reminded about how to mitigate the health risks to extreme heat—a critical aspect of this proposed rule, said Wes Wheeler, NECA’s executive director of safety.

“Personal accountability and responsibility should be foremost for every worker to understand,” Wheeler said. “Getting workers to understand the ancillary issues with heat, which are the effects of caffeine and carbonated beverages, prescription medications, personal health risk factors such as obesity, cardiac or respiratory issues and also being able to recognize when heat may be affecting them is vital.”

Under the proposed rule, if a worker is experiencing signs and symptoms of heat-related illness, the employer must relieve them from duty, monitor them, ensure they are not left alone, offer them on-site first aid or medical services before ending monitoring, and provide them with the means to reduce their body temperature.

If a worker is experiencing signs and symptoms of a heat emergency, the employer must contact emergency medical services right away and take immediate actions to reduce the employee’s body temperature before emergency medical services arrive.

Employers’ heat injury and illness prevention plans must be written in a language that each worker understands, Wheeler said.

“Therefore, if you have a multi-ethnic workforce, you must ensure it is translated and provided to each worker to ensure compliance,” he said. “Understanding all the nuances of breaks could possibly be challenging to implement according to these regulations.”

The proposed rule does not cover workers performing emergency response activities, and Wheeler said this should also include emergency electricity restoration work after storms.

The public is encouraged to submit written comments on the rule once it is published in the Federal Register. The agency also anticipates a public hearing after the close of the written comment period.

In the interim, OSHA continues to direct significant existing outreach and enforcement resources to educate employers and workers and hold businesses accountable for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act’s general duty clause, 29 U.S.C. § 654(a)(1) and other applicable regulations.

The agency continues to conduct heat-related inspections under its [National Emphasis Program – Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards](#), launched in 2022. The program inspects workplaces with the highest exposures to heat-related hazards proactively to prevent workers from suffering injury, illness or death needlessly. Since the launch, OSHA has conducted more than 5,000 federal heat-related inspections.

Article by Katie Kuehner-Hebert on [Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)

Tool Time Tax Holiday Reminder

We would like to remind our members that Florida’s one-

week 'tool time' sales tax holiday will take place from September 1st-7th. Here's what will be included:

- Hand tools with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Power tools with a sales price of \$300 or less per item
- Power tool batteries with a sales price of \$150 or less per item
- Work gloves with a sales price of \$25 or less per pair
- Safety glasses with a sales price of \$50 or less per pair or the equivalent if sold in sets of more than one pair
- Protective coveralls with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Work boots with a sales price of \$175 or less per pair
- Tool belts with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Duffle bags or tote bags with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Toolboxes with a sales price of \$75 or less per item
- Toolboxes for vehicles with a sales price of \$300 or less per item
- Industry textbooks and code books with a sales price of \$125 or less per item
- Electrical voltage and testing equipment with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- LED flashlights with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Shop lights with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Handheld pipe cutters, drain opening tools and plumbing inspection equipment with a sales price of \$150 or less per item
- Shovels with a sales price of \$50 or less
- Hard hats and other head protection with a sales price of \$100 or less
- Hearing protection items with a sales price of \$75 or less
- Ladders with a sales price of \$250 or less
- High visibility safety vests with a sales price of \$30 or less



Codes and Standards Report

NEC Article 230.46 - Line Side Connectors (Lugs)

Effective January 1, 2023, *National Electrical Code® (NEC®)* 230.46 requires wire connectors (Lugs) used for splicing or tapping conductors on the line side of the service to be Certified (Listed) as suitable for this use. How will these connectors (Lugs) be marked to identify this use on the line side of service equipment? Are there any connectors UL Certified (Listed) for this use?

Yes, wire connectors UL Certified (Listed) for this use are available. These wire connectors are UL Certified (Listed) under the product category Wire Connectors and Soldering Lugs (ZMVV). The guide information for this category states that connectors suitable for use on the line side of service equipment may be marked with the following or equivalent: "SR" or "Suitable for Use on the Line Side of Service Equipment." These markings may appear on a connector, smallest unit container, or information sheet placed in the smallest unit container. One way to identify connectors Certified (Listed) for this use is to search UL Product iQ® at www.ul.com/piq:

1. Begin the search by entering the Category Control Number (CCN) "ZMVV" in the "Create a Search Now" field.
2. On the next screen, enter the manufacturer's file number or name in the keyword search field.
3. Select the ZMVV Certification (Listing) file from the results.
4. In the left navigation under "Resources," select "View Products in this Listing."
5. Once viewing those search results, use the "Search Template" in the left navigation to see Certified (Listed) models eligible to display the SR or equivalent text option by selecting the "Use Statement" field and then selecting "Suitable for use on the line side of service equipment." A complete list of models from this file that are eligible to bear this marking will be displayed. If this text option is missing from the "Use Statement" field, the manufacturer does not have any connectors Certified (Listed) for the use.

Searching UL Product iQ is complimentary; registration is required for full access.

Article taken from the UL Solutions Question Corner in the January 2023 IAEI Magazine News Website

Early Electrical Contractors Involvement (EECI): Benefits, Barriers, and Selection Criteria

This research initiative explores the advantages, obstacles, and criteria for involving electrical contractors early in construction projects. The construction industry faces challenges with poor design quality, leading to increased change orders, costs, and delays, especially in electrical disciplines. Early involvement of electrical contractors can improve design quality, constructability, and value engineering. Despite recognized benefits, perceptions and challenges hinder implementation.

Key find include:

- EECI benefits outweigh its barriers.
- Cost savings through value engineering are the most agreed-upon benefit.
- High collaboration and teamwork are essential for successful EECI.
- Over 70% of respondents are satisfied with EECI, and over 90% are willing to adopt it for future projects.

The study suggests fostering collaboration with electrical contractors, documenting project outcomes to educate stakeholders, and effectively disseminating information to promote EECI. This will benefit electrical subcontractors, owners, designers, general contractors, and other specialty subcontractors by improving design quality and overall construction performance.

[Read the full report here!](#)

Looking Forward

- **August 6th, 2024: Membership Meeting in Jacksonville, FL**
 - **August 6th, 2024: Understanding Subcontracts Class in Jacksonville, FL**
 - **September 28th-October 1st, 2024: NECA Convention and Trade Show in San Diego, CA**
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