

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 area 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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North Florida Chapter NECA Membership Meeting

The first quarter North Florida Chapter NECA Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the upstairs training room.

Contact the North Florida NECA office for more information.

Codes and Standards Report

Comprehensive NFPA 70E Training for Qualified Workers

Proper training can enable employees to approach situations with safety in mind.

Electrical workers in particular face many hazards on the job, such as damaged tools and equipment, inadequate wiring and overloaded circuits, exposed electrical parts, damaged insulation and wet conditions and the most common OSHA electrical violation, improper grounding. However, few are more devastating than an arc flash, which is an electrical release of energy that can be hotter than the surface of the sun.

Though the nature of commercial and industrial industries and the type of equipment used can present dangerous situations, the reality is that many electrical injuries can be prevented if contractors are committed to developing a strong electrical safety policy and training programs. To navigate today's electrical safety requirements and build a proper electrical safety program, an organization must first

ensure it has qualified workers that have received the proper in-depth training to complete electrical tasks safely, using the latest NFPA 70E standard as their guide.

Who is Considered a “Qualified Worker?”

The NFPA 70E standard defines who is considered a qualified worker so that there is no mistaking if an employee is equipped to perform specific electrical activities—and for good reason, considering the dangerous hazards that electrical tasks often entail. According to NFPA 70E 110.2(A)(1), “a qualified person shall be trained and knowledgeable in the construction and operation of equipment or a specific work method and be trained to identify and avoid the electrical hazards that might be present with respect to the equipment and work method.”

It’s important to note that with this definition, being deemed a qualified worker does not necessarily mean that a specific employee will be allowed to perform all the electrical tasks within the facility. NFPA 70E requires a risk assessment of all the electrical tasks that need to be completed. Once an organization has identified all the tasks its qualified workers will be performing, the next step is to evaluate who will be selected as a qualified worker and the type of training they will need.

As the organization is determining its electrical risks, it is also important to understand that all qualified workers are not alike. There are differences in knowledge, skill and experience, which determine the level, content and nature of the training required for each individual. The electrical safety training course instructor doesn’t designate a qualified worker—the employer does—making it important for employees to clarify which scenarios are safe given their training and to identify where further instruction is needed for the installation and operation of a given electrical system.

To perform any electrical tasks, qualified workers must be trained based on the NFPA 70E Standard. This course should be taken once upon completion of initial training and then an NFPA 70E refresher every three years unless inspections, behaviors, changes in equipment and technology or changes in job duties require it to be retaken more frequently. Per NFPA 70E 110.2(4), training “...shall be classroom, on-the-job, or a combination of the two. The type and extent of the training provided shall be determined by the risk to the employee.” In addition to the NFPA 70E standard, OSHA CFR 1910.332 outlines training requirements for electrical work activities, including skills and techniques to “distinguish exposed live parts from other parts of electric equipment,” and the ability to “determine the nominal voltage of the exposed live parts.”

Developing Comprehensive Training Programs for Qualified Workers

This hands-on requirement is one of the biggest differences between the typical OSHA compliance training that many businesses are used to and the NFPA 70E standard, which mandates technical, hands-on training for employees beyond simply training with supervisory oversight. This is because NFPA 70E training must also often be customized to an organization’s assets—such as panels, equipment, PPE—procedures and practices are best learned by doing the work.

For the most effective training, businesses should consider implementing an internal program for qualified workers that includes both classroom and hands-on training of the qualified workers’ specific tasks. That way, the training program can be tailored to individuals based on their ability and the risks associated with their specific electrical tasks.

Part of a qualified worker’s training should also include an understanding of the required PPE based on the incident energy of the electrical device they are working on. Proper HRC/CAT rated clothing is the required form of protection when performing live electrical work, so qualified workers should ensure their clothing rating reflects the hazard category associated with the equipment they will be working on or in the vicinity of. Without proper PPE, the risk for serious injury can increase substantially.

Conclusion

All job sites come with inherent safety risks, but at the end of the day, electrical safety standards like NFPA 70E are designed to keep people safe and out of harm’s way. It is crucial that an organization’s qualified workers be trained to have not only the skills but also the safety practices and PPE to protect themselves on the job. By understanding how to define and train a qualified worker, organizations can empower their employees to approach each situation with the right training, tools and gear that will keep them safe and keep the facility operations running smoothly.

Article by Bill Belongea in OH&S magazine, Dec 1, 2022

Jacksonville JATC

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

We at the *Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville* would like to wish each of you a Happy New Year!!

January will start a new 1st Year Apprenticeship Class. The Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville Trustee's decided to take in 36 apprentices to help meet industry demands. Twenty two of the 36 new apprentices will be starting the new Computer Mediated Learning curriculum, or CML, designed by National ETA. The purpose of this curriculum is to help provide instructors more time for lab activities and to give students more hands-on experience. The remaining 14 started as pre-apprentices last August and are being distributed into existing 1st Year classes to replace apprentices who have been dropped due to attrition. These apprentices will finish up in the summer.

The Nassau County School District will be starting a new adult pre-apprenticeship class beginning in January. This pre-apprenticeship class is funded through a workforce development grant which will provide them with computers, books and tools. If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please have them contact Elaine Libby at 904-548-1720. Those who complete the Nassau County pre-apprenticeship, and are accepted into the apprenticeship, may qualify for advanced placement.

The Baker County School District will begin an adult pre-apprenticeship class in January. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending the Baker County pre-apprenticeship class, please have them contact Brandy Davis at 904-259-0406. Those who complete the Baker County pre-apprenticeship, and are accepted into the apprenticeship, may qualify for advanced placement.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in beginning a new career in the electrical trade, please have them contact us at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville or they can make their application online at – etajax.org.

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

Handbook of Production Improvement Methods for Trade Contractors

Trades are the linchpin between the design-phase vision of the facility and its actual assembly through the many systems, equipment, components, and finishes. Trades, the specialty contractors, add value to a project through the assembly or installation of these systems, components, and fixtures that allow the occupants and owners to use and enjoy their completed facility.

This handbook was developed as a resource. The content is intended as a user guide with practical resources, lessons learned by other, examples, and guidance to allow trade contractors and specialty construction firms operating to adopt lean principles and reap the workforce and business benefits that follow more readily. To enable their adoption, the emphasis in this handbook is on identifying and using methods to enable your craft workforce and colleagues across the firm to support the key tasks with which your firm adds value to your projects.

[Read the full report here!](#)

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR
from North Florida Chapter NECA



Looking Forward

- **January 31st, 2023- Membership Meeting**
 - **April 4th, 2023- Membership Meeting**
 - **August 22nd, 2023- Membership Meeting**
 - **December 8th, 2023- Membership Meeting**
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