

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

Board of Directors

President: Kevin Flanigan

Director: Brent Zimmerman

Vice President: Stan Brandies

Director: Scott Sullivan

Governor: Edward Witt Jr.

Director: Brad Giles

Treasurer: Chad Walker

Director: Daniel Brown

Upcoming Education Opportunities

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!

2024 NECA Convention and Trade Show: San Diego

It's that time again, folks!

Registration and housing opens **today** for the *2024 NECA Convention in San Diego!* Early registration pricing ends 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!

NEC-2023 Code Updates from Atkore



The NEC recently made updates to the NEC-2023 Code. Our friends at Atkore have put together a comprehensive handbook to analyze these changes. Use the button below to access the PDF version of this handbook, or use the QR code to the right for an immediate download of the PDF.



Using this incredibly helpful guide, you'll see the changes, why they were made and how it may affect you, the installer, or designer by section of the code as it relates to products produced and manufactured by Atkore.

Atkore is graciously offering to schedule a L&L presentation of the handbook for our North Florida Chapter members completely free of charge.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the attached handbook, please reach out to Alan Amidon with Atkore at aamidon@atkore.com.

[NEC-2023 Analysis of Changes by Atkore](#)

ELECTRI's Monthly Recap of Resources- May 2024



May held exciting new opportunities for NECA members as ELECTRI rolls out their new *ELECTRI Research Engagement Hub!* Use the button below to read more about the new Research Engagement Hub and to access the [ELECTRI International](#) monthly recap of resources for May 2024.

[ELECTRI's Recap of Resources- May 2024](#)

Codes and Standards Report

NFPA 70B: A Monumental Shift in Electrical Safety

Shifting from a recommended practice to a standard involves much more than a name change.

A little over a year ago, the electrical industry got a sort of upgrade that many of us were unaware of on the horizon. That upgrade came in the form of NFPA 70B changing from the *recommended practice* for electrical equipment maintenance, to the *standard* for electrical equipment maintenance.

However, this was a much bigger shift than just changing a name. For those of us in the know on how National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) documents are classified as a Code, Standard, Recommended Practice or Guideline; this was a very big deal. But, what does it mean for everyone else? And more importantly, what does this have to do with safety? Afterall, this is an electrical safety publication, right?

THE IMPACT ON THE INDUSTRY

First, let's explore the impact for the industry on going from a recommended practice to a standard. This change at a high level might appear as though the committee for NFPA 70B simply went through and changed "should" to "shall" and called it a day. Well, if it were even remotely that easy, it would have only taken a fraction of the time that it did to make this change.

The reality is that the committee on electrical equipment maintenance spent years of hard work reviewing the original document and deciding how best to make the shift. It involved a lot of hard work by the committee to make such an important final product. What needed to be done was a complete rethinking of the entire structure of the document to develop a format that would make sense.

One of the major structural revisions is that the information contained in the recommended practice had to be divided into three types of information:

1. Information that was an action item or that could be re-written as a requirement such as, "An electrical maintenance program (EMP) is important and can delay the inevitable equipment failure" could be changed to, "An equipment owner shall develop and implement an overall EMP."
2. Information that is explanatory or Annex material that helps with the implementation of an action item or requirement.
3. Extraneous information that is maybe good to know but not necessary for inclusion in the standard.

As you can probably imagine, this took a ton of hard work to sift through all of it. However, that hard work paid off and out of it came a standard that states, "If you own electrical equipment, here is how you can maintain it to reduce the risk of equipment failure that could cause injury to employees or unnecessary reliability issues."

WHAT IT MEANS FOR EMPLOYEES

It is the part about the reduced risk of injury to employees that grabs the attention of this author and has me so excited about this new document. Sure, NFPA 70E®: Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace® has an entire chapter devoted to safety-related maintenance, but it isn't the same.

Take for instance Article 225 for fuse and circuit breaker maintenance. The entire article is basically "Fuses and circuit breakers shall be maintained and free from breaks or cracks and if a circuit breaker is involved in a fault, it must be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions."

NFPA 70B on the other hand has Chapter 15 which goes into detail on what sort of visual inspections to perform, lubrication needed, tests that need to be run for larger low-voltage and medium-voltage circuit breakers, and it references where we can go to find an interval for how often to do this. When we look at how important the role of an overcurrent protective device is in interrupting an arcing fault or arc flash, we need this more in-depth take on how to ensure they operate as intended.

In fact, the shift of NFPA 70B to a standard might be one of the largest improvements in electrical safety in the workplace since the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1970. Proper installation and safe work practices have been

requirements for some time but they didn't amount to much in 25-30 years if the working condition of the equipment had not been maintained.

The recommended practice was a good start but was never ready for prime time and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certainly wasn't going to reference employers to a recommended practice the way they reference an industry consensus standard such as NFPA 70E.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR EMPLOYERS

So, what does this mean for employers that own and/or operate electrical equipment within their facility going forward? Simply put, it is time that we stop thinking that big gray box in our electrical room is fine on its own. The days of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" have come to an end in the electrical world.

The first thing to look at is our electrical **equipment maintenance program** or what NFPA 70B refers to as an **EMP**. And if you are reading this and asking, "What's an EMP?" then you most likely don't have one and might need to look into getting one.

An EMP is an overall document that the equipment owner must develop to direct activities appropriate to electrical equipment maintenance to maintain a safe and reliable working environment. Think of it like an electrical safety program, but for maintenance. In fact, the two are so closely related, it is almost impossible to write one without the other!

NFPA 70B requires the equipment owner to draft this plan based on the specific equipment in the facility. This allows the equipment owner to account for their specific needs and situation when deciding the best plan for maintaining their electrical equipment. For instance, a chemical manufacturing plant might have a different need for maintenance than a retail shopping center. Equipment failure in the plant might lead to a situation where the surrounding community is exposed to dangerous chemicals versus at the shopping center where failure of the equipment might simply mean that shoppers can't purchase that new pair of sneakers because the point-of-sale system is down. One instance is a risk to the health and safety of many people whereas the other is a minor inconvenience. By drafting their own EMP, the equipment owner can weigh these types of concerns.

THE IMPACT OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Whatever your approach towards electrical equipment maintenance has been over the years, the one thing we can't deny is that taking care of our equipment helps keep us safe when we go to work. It will also make sure the lights come on when we flip the switch. This makes it easy to see that one of the most important procedures we can perform in our daily routine is taking care of our electrical equipment as both safety and reliability are critical to the successful operation of a business. When it comes to electrical equipment, never forget that old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Take care of your equipment and it will take care of you.

Article by Derek Vigstol who is an electrical safety consultant for e-Hazard. February 2024.

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

May 23rd was the deadline for the Fall apprenticeship class. We yielded 391 applications for the Inside Program and 69 applications for the VDV Program for a total of 460 applications. We are currently in the process of conducting interviews and aptitude testing through June 19th for the 2024-2025 year. The new deadline for applications is November 7th so if you know anyone interested in our program please send them to our website at www.etajax.org.

We currently have a journeyman level instrumentation class going on. This class has 14 students and will conclude in August. We also have an adult pre-apprenticeship class that will carry throughout the summer. Please check our website for more upcoming classes to be scheduled in the near future.

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.

Apprenticeship and Training Dire

Daniel Van Sickle
Apprenticeship and Training Director

Daniel McEachern
Assistant Training Director

Looking Forward

- **June 6th, 2024: Registration opens for the 2024 NECA Convention San Diego**
 - **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**
-

phone: 904-636-0663

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



Visit our website

North Florida NECA | 4951 A Richard St. | Jacksonville, FL 32207 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!