

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 is a dark blue gradient with a 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

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Upcoming Education Opportunities

Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts

As many of you know, due to the weather conditions, we had to reschedule our Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts class last month. This class has been rescheduled for **September 24th, 2024**.

This 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.

If you would like to RSVP for this class, please reach out to Chyanne at the NECA office, chyanned@nflneca.org she will send you a calendar invite to confirm your RSVP and send you the link to attend this class virtually if you cannot make it in person.

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024.
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Will be held at the North Florida Chapter NECA office

NFPA 855 Virtual Course

Nick Bartlett, senior fire protection engineer and Fire Marshal out of Colorado, will be hosting a virtual course on **NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems**. This virtual class will be held on *October 11, 2024*. He has extended the invite to attend this virtual class to all of our members at the North Florida Chapter NECA. The course is designed to get AHJs, planners, engineers, inspectors, and installers on the same page about NFPA 855. See the flyer below for more information on this class and how to register.



NFPA 855

STANDARD FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM - 2023 EDITION

This class will teach participants to confidently navigate NFPA 855. It will provide the 'why' behind many of the code requirements, and provide context for risk and mitigation measures. This course is targeted for AHJs, engineers (all types), contractors, energy storage system manufacturers, integrators, city/county planners, inspectors, and more. The course will provide a deep dive into topics such as:

- UL 9540, UL 9540A, UL 1973
- Explosion Control
- Fire Suppression, Detection, & Barriers
- Hazard Mitigation Analysis
- ESS Siting & Clearances
- Battery Collection & Storage
- Battery Management Systems
- Overall design/installation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Residential Units
- Battery Basics
- Related Standards (IFC, NFPA 13/68/69/70/72)

Date: Friday, October 11, 2024
Time: 8:30 AM - 5 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)
Virtual Event - Zoom
Register at www.atarfire.com
AHJ/Government: \$299 Public: \$399
Credit/Apple Pay/Google Pay at www.atarfire.com OR
contact instructor for Check/ACH



NICHOLAS BARTLETT, P.E. SENIOR FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: NFPA 855; UL 1487, UL 1973, CSA C801

MEMBER: ICC BATTERY AD-HOC COMMITTEE; FIRE MARSHAL/AHJ

ATAR FIRE, LLC; NICK@ATARFIRE.COM; WWW.ATARFIRE.COM; 510-710-9080

**THIS CLASS IS NOT TAUGHT ON BEHALF OF NFPA OR THE NFPA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE*

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!* Registration and housing closes soon, 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

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

Atkore Product Release

Our friends at Atkore wanted our members to be aware of two new products they are releasing that could be majorly beneficial to contractors, one for industrial or food grade applications and one for the low voltage cabling market. These products have been designed to withstand the harshest conditions while protecting electrical circuits.

For more information about Atkore's newest products, please reach out to aamidon@atkore.com



Atkore
Calbrite

BriteBox™ Stainless Steel Enclosures for Hygienic Environments

Calbrite's latest innovation in stainless steel enclosures are designed to withstand the harshest conditions while protecting critical electrical circuits. Constructed with corrosion resistant 316 stainless steel and FDA-approved gaskets, BriteBox™ is the solution for your facility.



BriteBox™ Features

- ▶ 316 stainless steel
- ▶ Slope-top design
- ▶ Prefabricated mounting design
- ▶ FDA-approved gaskets
- ▶ NEMA 4x / NEMA 12 rated
- ▶ UL® listed
- ▶ NSF®/ANSI 169 certified
- ▶ Patent Pending

BriteBox™ Benefits

- ▶ Corrosion resistant
- ▶ Prevents harboring points
- ▶ Quick and easy to install
- ▶ Easy to replace gaskets
- ▶ Made in the USA

For more information visit atkore.com



Low Voltage Cable Accessories

J-Hooks, Bridle Rings and Cable Holders



 **Atkore™**

Codes and Standards Report

2026 NEC First Draft: How Did We Get Here?

So, what could possibly be changing with the *2026 National Electrical Code® (NEC)*?

Let's start with the NFPA standards development process, where anyone in the world, other than NFPA® staff, can participate in this process. The public input (PI) is the first step in the process, and we are already beyond this step for the 2026 NEC. Individuals submitted 3,933 PIs for the 2026 edition of the NEC, a slight decrease from the 4,006 submitted for the 2023 NEC.

The next step is the technical meetings also known as the first draft (FD) meetings, where a significant number of in-depth conversations occur among the members of technical committees, known as code making panels (CMPs) in the NEC process, about the PIs. If you have not been to a technical meeting, you should go. The public is welcome to attend. The second draft NEC meetings will be in person only and there will not be a remote or virtual attendance option.

After these discussions at the meeting, the CMP decides by majority vote whether each PI is the basis for a first revision (FR) or if it is resolved with a statement from the panel why the recommendation did not result in a FR. There were 1,576 FRs developed at the CMP meetings for the 2026 NEC. Once the FD technical meetings are over, ballots are sent out to CMP members for their vote on the FRs as a proposed change. In order for a FR to move forward in the process, it must receive a 2/3 affirmative vote from the CMP members. The NEC Correlation Committee reviews the work done by all of the CMPs and creates correlating notes (CNs) or first correlating revisions (FCRs). After the balloting of the CMPs and Correlating Committee is completed, a FD report is posted on the NFPA document information page.

Public comment (PC) on the proposed FR changes for the 2026 NEC closed on August 28, 2024. Public comment can also be submitted on public inputs that were not accepted at the first draft meeting and on any FRs that did not receive the requisite ballot support (referred to as committee inputs or CIs). The hard work put in by the CMPs during the first draft stage has begun to shape what the 2026 NEC may indeed look like, by incorporating some of the changes that were offered through public input as first revisions.

2023 NEC Structural Changes Recap

There were some structural changes in the 2023 NEC that impacted the layout of the code. A few of the 2023 changes included moving all the definitions from the individual articles into Article 100, making them easier to search digitally.

A few new articles around installations over 1000 volts alternating current (ac) or 1500 volts direct current (dc), nominal, were created, as well as a new article for general requirements for cables in power-limited circuits and fault-managed power (FMP) circuits. These specific changes were implemented to aid in overall usability of the NEC and to help prepare for potential future changes.

Today, installations over 1000 volts ac or 1500 volts dc, nominal are more common on the customer side of the service point and are not just being used by utility companies. The NEC was revised to better organize existing requirements for these systems, thus making it easier for the end user working with the higher voltage installations to identify the code requirements applicable to those installations. FMP is a new technology that didn't really have a specific article in the NEC, and this further reinforced the need for the NEC to be able to expand allowing for new articles. The 2026 NEC stands to look much different if the additional proposed changes are accepted.

2026 NEC Structural Changes Proposed

The overall structure of the NEC is what may be one of the biggest potential changes for the 2026 NEC. The technical committees are moving articles around. For example, Article 220, Branch-Circuit, Feeder, and Service Load Calculations, is proposed to become new Article 120, while existing Article 750, Energy Management Systems, is proposed to be new Article 130.

Chapter 2 could have a new look with several new articles, such as Article 245, Overcurrent Protection for Systems Rated Over 1000 volts ac, 1500 volts dc, Nominal, along with five other potential new articles after existing Article 250 that relate to the higher-voltage wiring applications. By potentially adding these new articles into the 2026 NEC, it is intended to make it easier for the user to find the code sections they need when it comes to these systems, while also providing room for new technologies.

Chapter 7 could possibly look a little different, too, if new Article 742, Overvoltage Protection of Limited-Energy Systems, new Article 790, General Requirements for Limited-Energy Systems, and new Article 794, Limited-Energy cables for Power-Limited Circuits, FMP Circuits, Optical Fiber Circuits, and Communications Circuits, are added to the NEC.

A couple of new informative annexes may also be added to the 2026 NEC. One could be Informative Annex F, which would cover critical operations power systems (COPS) availability, reliability, and functional performance tests (FPTs). Also, a potential new Informative Annex K deals with the use of medical electrical equipment in dwellings and residential board-and-care occupancies.

Conclusion

The NFPA codes and standards development process is set up so that everyone in the world has a voice, there is a balance of interests represented at the table, and no single interest has an unfair advantage in the voting on recommended changes.

The changes made in the 2023 NEC around installations over 1000 volts ac, 1500 volts dc and the proposed changes in the 2026 NEC allowing for new technologies is making the NEC look different from previous editions.

Rest assured, the legacy content that has provided for safe electrical installations in the past remains in the proposed 2026 edition. The proposed structure changes are to ensure the NEC is keeping pace with what electrical installations look like today and will look like moving forward. More modernization is planned for the 2029 edition. Get involved and let your voice be heard so you can help shape the future. Remember, silence is acceptance. When the time comes, submit your PI or PC by visiting the NFPA document information page and help make this electrified world a little bit safer.

The article above is taken from the NFPA website blog and written by Dean Austin 06-Aug-2024

- September 24th, 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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