

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 in a white serif font, and "CONNECTION" is in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background 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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## Membership Meeting

North Florida Chapter NECA's second quarter membership meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 15th, at 11:30 a.m.** at the North Florida NECA office, in the upstairs training room.

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## Upcoming Education Courses

### Introduction to AI in the Electrical Contracting Industry

This class is all about helping electrical contractors get comfortable with using AI in their day-to-day work. We'll focus on practical ways to make business operations smoother, improve communication, and boost efficiency. Contractors will learn the basics of working with large language models (LLMs) to tackle challenges specific to our industry, find better solutions, and get real results. With hands-on activities and real-world examples, contractors should leave this workshop with clear, actionable ideas to start using AI in their business right away.

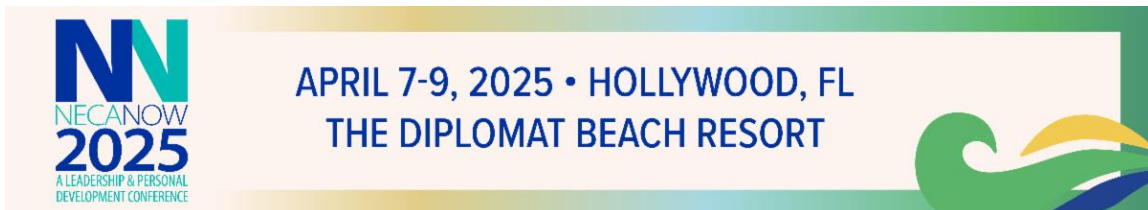
This class is intended for ALL roles within your company! We encourage our members to bring their admins, PMs, and anyone else who feel they would benefit from learning about how to get comfortable integrating AI into their work.

[RSVP Here!](#)

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

## NECA NOW 2025

Register today for the 2025 NECA Now Leadership and Personal Development conference! Housing and special event spots are limited, so we are encouraging our members to sign up for NECA Now 2025 as soon as possible. Click the banner below to login to your NECA Net account and register, or contact our office and we would be more than happy to assist in registration and housing.



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## COJ Update

### Changes to the Florida Statutes & 180-day Rule

#### Changes to the Florida Statutes

In addition to a number of responsibilities for local jurisdictions, permit applicants now have a deadline in the Florida Statutes. At the end of FS 553.792(1)(f) the statutes now require an applicant to resubmit a permit within 10 business days after it has been Returned for Corrections by the building plans examiner. If it is not, the permit will be denied.

For clarification, when a building permit application is denied, this means a new permit application must be submitted for the previously denied scope of work.

If you need more time before you can resubmit: While the permit is in Return for Corrections status and the permit has not yet been denied, please email Chuck Gibson (CGibson@coj.net) or myself (JGideon@coj.net) stating the reason why you need more time, and we can grant an extension. Please be specific as to the reason you are unable to resubmit within the 10 business days.

This statute went into effect January 1, 2025 and we will start enforcing this on March 4, 2025.

#### 180 Days

Chapter 1 of the Florida Building Code sets timelines for permit applications as well as Active permits. Starting March 4, 2025, JAXEPICS will start enforcing these timelines again (they were previously enforced in our previous permitting system). These timelines are based on 180 days.

If a permit application remains in Not Submitted status with no action within 180 days, these permits will be voided.

If an Active permit spans 180 days without “active progress” indicated by a passed inspection, the permit will be expired. If the permit has associated permits, even a passed inspection on the associated permit will be considered active progress.

If a justifiable cause can be demonstrated and the request is made prior to expiration of the permit, an extension may be granted in some circumstances.

Please note, an expired permit is considered “open” and will have to be resolved by the property owner, usually when they try to sell the property. In most cases this will require applying for a new permit to complete the work.

# Is a Second Person Needed?

## New requirements coming to NFPA 70E in 2027

When is a second person required when work will be performed on energized conductors and circuit parts, and what training should that person have? This is a question that arises again and again. This is presently discussed in requirements for the employer's electrical safety program in Section 110.3.



In Section 110.3(H)(1), required elements of a risk assessment procedure include identifying hazards, assessing risks and implementing risk control according to the hierarchy of risk control methods. A requirement for a second person does not exist; however, Informational Note No. 1 following 110.3(H)(1) informs the user that when performing the required risk assessment procedure, the employer should decide when a second person is required, and the training and equipment necessary.

### Necessary requirements

There are many factors to consider. Article 130 covers requirements for work involving electrical hazards such as necessary electrical safety-related work practices, assessments, precautions and procedures when an electrically safe work condition (ESWC) cannot be established.

The existing requirements in 130.1 that were not scope material were relocated to a new Section 130.2 , Work Involving Electrical Hazards. The existing Article 130 requirements are in new 130.2(B), and those for the energized electrical work permit (EEWP) are relocated into 130.3. The existing requirements addressing energized electrical parts not in an ESWC are relocated to 130.2(A)(1).

A new 130.2(A)(2), Additional Person, has also been added to necessitate an additional (second) person, as follows: "If an energized electrical work permit is required in accordance with 130.3(A), at least one additional person meeting the emergency response training requirements of 110.4(C)(1) shall be present in the vicinity of, but outside of, either the limited approach boundary or arc flash boundary, whichever is greater."

The support for this new requirement was unanimous on the technical committee written ballot. The public input introducing this concept was broad, and it was necessary to provide qualifying criteria on when an additional person would be required. Tying this new requirement to the need for an EEWP was the most feasible path forward.

### We're not done

Now the question is, does this revision solve the problem completely when a second person is required, and their training? It is a significant safety-driven addition to the standard—but no, this is not the complete answer. There is more work to do.

Employers must consider the need for an additional person (and their training) for each exposure to energized conductors or circuit parts. This new requirement for a second person is limited, as it applies only when an EEWP is required in accordance with 130.3(A). This includes when work is performed within the restricted approach boundary or when an employee interacts with the equipment when conductors or circuit parts are not exposed but there is an increased likelihood of injury from an exposure to an arc flash hazard.

In the electrical construction industry, the first priority is to always eliminate the hazard by creating an ESWC. When this is done, testing for the absence of voltage is exempted from the need for an EEWP and the requirement for an additional person will not apply. It is extremely important to understand that testing for the absence of voltage during the creation of an ESWC is considered energized work. Based on the potential exposure, it may be prudent to have a second person. Additionally, troubleshooting tasks, such as voltage testing, would be exempt from an EEWP, and an additional person would not be required.

Another consideration is the required training for the additional person. As presently written, the additional person must only receive emergency response training required by 110.4(C)(1), which is contact release training. While the general training requirements in Section 110.4 mandate electrical safety training for qualified persons, lockout/tagout procedure, first aid emergency response and resuscitation training, only

contact release training is required for the additional person. More than one additional person may be necessary, and they may need significantly more training based on tasks performed and potential exposure.

This new requirement is an excellent addition to the standard and will set the stage for enhancements over multiple revision cycles. NFPA 70E covers countless different workplaces; however, its extremely broad coverage makes it challenging to provide prescriptive requirements for each workplace. Employers must fully understand NFPA 70E requirements and apply them as needed, understanding that exceeding these rules is necessary in many cases. There is no “easy button.”

There are many more employer responsibilities, including training for qualified persons as required in Section 110.4.

[Article by Jim Dollard on Electrical Contractor Magazine.](#)

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## Codes and Standards Report

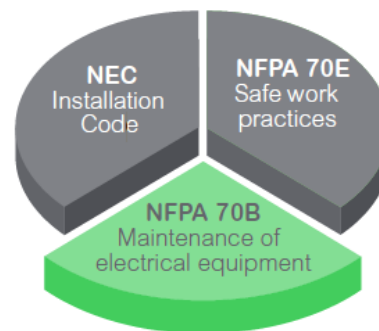
### NFPA® 70B: Step-by-Step Compliance

The 2023 edition of the NFPA 70B represents a significant shift in the approach to electrical equipment maintenance. Previously considered a “Recommended Practice,” NFPA 70B is now a “Standard” containing mandatory language and requirements.

This change makes NFPA 70B a key driver of electrical maintenance and safety in the United States (U.S.) – including inspection methods and recommended equipment – and underscores the importance of properly maintaining electrical, electronic, and communications systems.

While every organization has a unique problem-solving approach, this document provides step-by-step instructions for 2023 NFPA 70B standard compliance.

A comprehensive approach  
to electrical safety



#### 8 Steps To Compliance

1. Designate an electrical maintenance program (EMP) coordinator
2. Conduct electrical infrastructure and equipment condition assessment
3. Update single-line diagrams (SLDs) and other studies older than five years
4. Perform remediation identified by assessments
5. Determine maintenance intervals and scope based on the assessment
6. Update EMP to verify compliance requirements
7. Audit your EMP every 5 years or less
8. Embrace digitization and digitalization

This new standard opens up the possibility for more work for our contractors by performing the steps above and capitalizing on the follow up maintenance and remediation work that comes out of the NFPA 70B compliance results.

*From an article on the Electrical Safety Foundation website by Schneider Electric*

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## JATC Apprenticeship Reports

### Jacksonville JATC

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

March 2025 has us at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville busier than ever! Our 4th Year apprentices are continuing the 5th Year curriculum and are looking forward to completing by the Spring.

Our Medium Voltage Splicing class for Journeyman Wireman began on February 10th and will continue for two months. As a reminder, we take applications year round and if you know anyone who may be interested in beginning a career in the electrical trade, please have them visit our website at [www.etajax.org](http://www.etajax.org) to begin the application process.

As we continue to expand, if you know a Journeyman Wireman who may be interested in becoming an instructor please have them send their resume to Assistant Training Director Daniel McEachern at [dmceachern@etajax.org](mailto:dmceachern@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

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## Daytona Beach JATC

Hello from Daytona Beach!

This month we had graduation and welcomed 19 new Journeyman Wiremen into Local Union 756.

We have all apprentices working and have about 15 CW's working. we are giving aptitude tests weekly and expect to interview every month.

Robert Cruz  
Training Director

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## ELECTRI Research Report

### Addressing a Changing Trade Workforce: Strategies for Electrical Contractors

This ELECTRI International 2023 Special Project report focuses on and responds to the evolving nature of the construction trade workforce. The report is based upon a nationwide survey of close to 700 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) electricians and 25 interviews with both field and office individuals representing National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) contractors. The objective of this study was to conduct a critical examination of worker motivation and job satisfaction among construction trade professionals. This report provides electrical contractors with strategies to manage, inspire, recruit, and retain trade workers.

Construction is one of the most labor-intensive industries, with 30-50% of the total project costs attributed to labor. The management of labor costs and productivity can be the difference between financial success or failure for a construction contractor. This dilemma is exacerbated by the shortage of skilled labor in the U.S. first starting in the 1980s [1]. Labor availability issues are more pronounced on projects with tight construction schedules. This, in turn, can impact safety, quality, and increase project costs because of the overreliance on overtime [2]. Yet, contractors must still deal with these concerns and find ways to balance their labor resources to maximize productivity without increasing worker fatigue.

The findings from the surveys and interviews conducted for this research report highlight individuals' perceptions in the following areas: workforce motivation, workforce recruitment, workforce retention.

[Read the full report here.](#)

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## Looking Forward

- April 7-9th, 2025: NECA Now in Hollywood, FL

- **April 15th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
  - **April 22nd, 2025:** *Intro to AI Class*
  - **April 28-30th, 2025:** *Legislative Conference in Washington DC*
  - **June 24th - 26th:** *Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction Class*
  - **July 14-16th, 2025:** *ELECTRI Summer Council Meeting in Toronto, Canada*
  - **August 6th, 2025:** *Davis-Bacon Act Class*
  - **August 26th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
  - **September 12-15th, 2025:** *NECA Convention & Trade Show in Chicago, IL*
  - **December 5th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting & Holiday Party*
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