



WATTS UP

April 01, 2008

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

April 1	Happy 25 th Anniversary to 3-Way Electric Inc
April 1	Anchorage JATC
April 8	Safety Committee
April 9	Board/Membership Meeting
April 13-16	District 10 Council Meeting in FL
April 28-May 1	Legislative Conference in DC
July 13	NECA OPEN Golf Tournament

Tool Box Talks

April 07, 2008	Exit Strategies
April 14, 2008	Fall Protection
April 21, 2008	Falling Objects/Hard Hats
April 28, 2008	Fire Evacuation

New Edition of NECA Newscast Now Airing

The second episode of NECA Newscast is now airing on NECANet.org. The Newscast features an interview with Alan Ruud, President and CEO of Ruud Lighting.

Ruud pioneered direct manufacturer-to-contractor lighting sales and is a perennial exhibitor at the NECA Show. In his interview from the trade show floor, Ruud offers his insights on LED lighting, the cutting-edge lighting technology that promises high energy efficiency, low maintenance, and many other environmental benefits.

The broadcast also includes: a report on the January Task Force Meeting of ELECTRI International, an announcement of NECA's national membership into the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a new NECA/ELECTRI International "Talent Initiative", and a calendar of upcoming NECA events.

Did you know...

NECA will host its inaugural Legislative Issues Conference, April 28-May 1, in Washington, D.C. "This conference is an opportunity for NECA contractors to put a constituent's face on issues like the unfair 3% withholding tax for their members of Congress," said Lake Coulson, NECA executive director for government affairs.

In addition to meetings on Capitol Hill, NECA contractors will discuss policy with administration officials and hear political prognostications from Stuart Rothenberg, editor and publisher of the Rothenberg Political Report.

Members can register for NECA's Legislative Issues Conference online at NECANet.org. You will need your member username and password.

"RFID-Equipped Pickups Won't Let Tools Go Missing" Boston Globe (02/11/08) Bray, Hiawatha

The Ford Motor Co. is partnering with several technologies manufacturers to produce a built-in tracking system for tools. The automaker's popular F-series trucks are frequently used by skilled trades people to carry industrial tools, and Ford hopes to include the Tool Link system as an option for the 2009 model year vehicles. The company will partner with Cambridge, Mass.-based ThingMagic Inc. to produce radio frequency identification (RFID) tags. Trucks with the Tool Link system will come with 50 RFID tags to be attached to any tools or equipment, and an onboard RFID reader will automatically scan the equipment as it is placed on the truck bed. A computerized tracking system built by an auxiliary company of the Italian carmaker Fiat lists all the tools in cargo on a screen within the truck's cabin, so workers know the exact inventory before leaving a destination. The research team at Ford says the innovation is a direct result of a return-on-investment analysis showing workers lose valuable time and money by forgetting or losing necessary tools.

"The Safety Standards Opportunity" Electrical Wholesaling (02/08) P. 74 ; Weigel, Joseph

The NFPA 70E 2004 Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace is the leading "how to" document for electrical safety that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration backs. The NFPA 70E regulations apply to any structure that has electrical equipment that runs at 50 V or higher and is likely to need maintenance, alterations, or servicing while being used. This includes nearly every client that electrical distributors do business with, including electrical contractors. Numerous steps have to be taken to fulfill the compliance mandates of the NFPA 70E safety protocols, including creating a written electrical safety program with special responsibilities. In addition, an electrical system study must be performed to figure out the possible risk for every piece of electrical equipment the system contains. Comprehensive training for every electrical employee must be offered concerning the risks, and personal protective equipment clothing must be given to all employees who may be exposed to electrical risks. Electrical equipment needs to be kept up regularly. Maintenance protocols and intervals are described in the NFPA 70B "Recommended Practice for Electrical Equipment Maintenance 2006 Edition." A lot of the standards' mandates can be provided by electrical distributors' suppliers.

New Bill Makes New Regulatory Burden on Businesses

The SAVE Act (H.R. 4088) is an enforcement-only immigration bill that is bad for electrical contractors and would place tremendous, new burdens on employers, such as requiring employers to terminate workers who receive no-match letters from the Social Security Administration and can't resolve discrepancies within 10 business days and requiring employers to re-verify the work authorization status of their entire workforce. Act now to tell Congress these new regulations won't work for electrical contractors!

"OSHA's Amended PPE Rule May Cost Employers \$85 Million" Electrical Apparatus (03/08) Vol. 61 , No. 3 , P. 33 ; Elsberry, Richard B.

Contractors will be digging deeper into their pockets when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration begins enforcing a new rule on employer/employee responsibilities for payment of personal protective equipment (PPE) on May 15. The new rule orders employers to pay for 100 percent of the PPE required by OSHA's general industry, construction, and maritime standards. This is expected to cost employers a total of around \$85 million. While the rule increases employer spending, it should decrease employee illnesses and deaths, lowering injuries per year by about 21,000. No new requirements as to what PPEs employers must provide are included in the new rule, however certain exceptions are explicitly listed. These include a variety of clothing items used to keep clean such as overalls, coveralls, and aprons as well as everyday work gloves. How often employers must replace PPE is also not clearly stated in the rule, though it is up to the employer to replace old or broken PPE to maintain OSHA standards. Employers, however, are not responsible for PPE lost or intentionally damaged by an employee and do not have to compensate employees who choose to wear PPE that they personally own and paid for. The employer's ultimate responsibility is to make sure all employees have

proper PPE.

NECA Joins USGBC

Green construction is everywhere, and the National Electrical Contractors Assn. is making sure that its member contractors are ready to serve the growing market of owners and users looking for energy-efficient, innovative alternatives to traditional building methods.

To support this initiative, NECA's national office recently became a member of the U.S. Green Building Council. The USGBC is a non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices. Together, NECA and the USGBC are currently finalizing details for a workshop on how electrical contractors can become LEED Accredited Professionals in the "New Construction" category. The workshop will be held at NECA's annual convention in Chicago, Oct. 4-7.

"Our vision is that NECA will be a resource to help our member contractors and their customers 'go green' at whatever level they want," said Rob Colgan, NECA executive director for marketing. "Sustainable construction can be a part of any building project, and our goal is to help owners, developers and general contractors find the right balance in their electrical and communication systems.

"Energy efficient systems are an important aspect of LEED ratings, but their real attractiveness to building owners lies in the money they can save over the life of a building," Colgan said. "NECA contractors are in a great position to help those owners achieve their green building goals by creating innovative and fully integrated energy-efficient systems."

Colgan also pointed out that consumers are becoming more educated about alternatives to convention power generation, like solar, wind, and biomass. "Effectively using these alternative methods of power generation, however, takes specific skills and experience with a wide array of new products, and NECA contractors have a distinct advantage in this area," he said. "Our training programs are the acknowledged leader in photovoltaic installation, and our annual trade show features the most significant gathering of alternative energy technologies specifically for electrical contractors."

Just Added: NECA 2008 Chicago Schedule-at-a-Glance

The 2008 NECA Convention and Trade Show will be an exciting mix of opportunities for education, inspiration, networking, and fun! Our schedule is filled to bursting with rewarding activities, so check out our new Schedule-at-a-Glance early. You'll need plenty of time to decide which ones to pick!

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL
September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA



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