



WATTS UP

April 01, 2011

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

April 5

April 12

April 13

April 24

Anchorage JATC

Safety Committee

Board/Membership Meeting

Easter

CONTRACTOR 101: Start With the Basics

A new online course from NECA's Management Education Institute answers the fundamental questions about what it takes to make it in electrical contracting.

Starting with the basics about who does what on a construction project, and moving into the leadership and technical skills that can improve your chances for success, **Contractor 101** is NECA's introduction to the industry of electrical construction. The program covers the fundamentals for people new to electrical contracting and how contractor business and management operations are organized.

Who should take this course? This new online program is useful for electrical contractors training office staff, students investigating career options in the industry, and electrical workers considering a move into management. In addition, contractors new to the industry or those interested in better business practice can often avoid costly errors by reviewing an introductory program like Contractor 101. **Everyone can benefit!**

Contractor 101 is available for \$49 for NECA members; \$65 for non-members. Individuals who complete this online course will be awarded 0.2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Click on the following link for more information, including easy-to-follow instructions for registering. [Get full information on Contractor 101, NECA's new online course](#)

Take Action

New Efforts to Repeal the 3% Withholding Tax

NECA has been battling for the repeal of Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 ever since it became law. It's the section that requires ALL governmental bodies with total expenditures of \$100 million or more-every branch or agency of the federal government, every state, most counties and cities, even most school districts-to withhold 3% from their payments to suppliers and contractors for goods and services. This provision is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2012.

While 3 percent may not sound like much to the government, it exceeds the average pre-tax profit margin in construction and is larger than the profit margins permitted under

many government contracts. The problem is compounded when contractors are subjected to having up to an additional 10 percent of progress payments withheld. Not only does impeded cash flow jeopardize a contractor's ability to complete a current project; the ability to secure bonding and compete for future jobs is also imperiled because surety companies look for a healthy cash flow, strong margins and timely payments before they'll provide the necessary backing.

New repeal legislation had be brought forth in the new Congress. On January 25, Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA) introduced [S.164](#) and Sen. David Vitter (R-LA) introduced [S.89](#). On February 11, Rep. Wally Herger (R, CA-2) introduced a similar repeal bill, [H.R.674](#). ***But NECA and congressional opponents of the 3% withholding tax are not waiting for the repeal legislation to make its way through the committees!*** Senators Brown and Vitter, along with Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), are poised to offer an amendment during the Senate's consideration of small business legislation that would repeal the withholding provision. NECA sent a letter seeking support for the amendment to each U.S. senator. [Catch the latest news from NECA on efforts to repeal the 3% withholding tax](#)

Meetings & Events

AEI 2011 in San Diego Focused on Helping NECA Members Succeed

Chapter executives and national staff members who participated in the recent 2011 ***NECA Association Executive Institute*** focused on all the "**BIG issues**" in labor relations; business development (developing markets for member's services), with an in-depth look at emerging opportunities such as electrical vehicle charger installation; making a difference in government affairs; and other issues relevant to advancing NECA members. Plus, they got a great **preview of NECA 2011 San Diego!** [Discover, and learn from, what went on at the 2011 Association Executive Institute](#)

Safety

FREE Webinar on HazCom Standard and GHS Proposal Coming April 19

The [Hazard Communication Standard](#) (HazCom), which has become an easy target for OSHA citations, continues to befuddle many employers, and now OSHA is considering adopting the [Globally Harmonized System](#) (GHS). The implementations of this system in the U.S. will require everyone to update HazCom training and paperwork. A **FREE** webinar on **Tuesday, April 19, starting at 1:00 p.m. EDST**, will review the HazCom requirements and help you get ready for what comes next. [Register for the FREE April 19, 2011, safety webinar on HazCom and GHS](#)

Registration Open for First NECA Safety Professionals Conference

The ***only*** conference specifically created for safety professionals working in the **electrical construction industry** will be held during National Electrical Safety Month. It's the first **NECA Safety Professionals Conference**, to be held **May 22-24** in **Dallas**. Participants will network with industry peers, share best practices, and hear directly from the leaders developing and enforcing U.S. safety practices. [See what's planned for the NECA Safety Professionals Conference, May 22-24](#)

Important: Please pass this information on to all the professionals in your company who manage safety and health programs or have similar responsibilities as part of the scope

of employment, including safety directors, human resource professionals, project managers, risk managers and supervisors.

eSafetyLine Toolbox Talks

Each month, the [special safety site available through NECA's website](#) addresses a specific topic and offers downloadable materials to enable you to provide related [weekly toolbox safety talks](#) * to employees. * Click on the red numeral for the week (shown on the [eSafety Line calendar page](#)) to download the current employee training material. Click on the toolbox icon for the archive of previously issued toolbox talks.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

October 22-25, 2011	NECA Convention/San Diego, CA
September 30-October 3, 2012	NECA Convention/Las Vegas, NV
October 12-15, 2013	NECA Convention/Washington, DC