SAFETY NEWS

NFPA publishes 2020 National Electrical Code® (NEC®)

NECA plays key role in rigorous Code development process; Massachusetts first in nation in adoption

The 2020 NEC - NFPA 70® is now available at nfpa.org and will go into effect in January 2020, as the Commonwealth will again lead the U.S. in its adoption. Many of the revisions and new rules in the 2020 NEC address new technologies, such as expanded use of energy storage systems and equipment, microgrid installations, and large-scale photovoltaic system installations. Key changes include:

- **Marinas and Boatyards:** Updated ground-fault protection and leak age-current measurement device requirements.
- **Conducting Load Calculations:** Modernized tables for calculations to reflect improvements in energy efficiency.
- **Power Over Ethernet Cables:** Revised requirements to meet the installation practices of new and evolving technologies such as power and data transmission using the same cable.
- **Deenergizing Panel Boards:** Revised six service disconnect rules to help increase electrical worker safety.
- **Marinas and Boatyards:** Updated ground-fault protection and leak age-current measurement device requirements.

### SAFESITES

NECA – Setting the Standard for Electrical Safety

The National Electrical Contractors Association's leadership in electrical construction safety spans the organization's active role in the development of the National Electrical Code® and National Electrical Installation Standards, as well as numerous other electrical standards, electrical safety publications, programs, and initiatives. These safety programs continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing technology innovations and construction methods utilized in today's construction projects. NECA's safety resources keep NECA contractors current with all electrical safety issues, enabling them to safely power today's facilities with installations performed to the highest industry standard. Here's a look at NECA's hands-on involvement in electrical installation safety and just some of NECA's multifaceted electrical contractor and worker safety programs:

- **National Electrical Code (NEC)** - With over 100 years of support in NEC development, NECA is the leading voice of electrical contractors in the development of codes and standards. NECA has representation on each NEC technical committee and as the voice of installers and maintainers at NEC hearings, helps develop Code rules that are understandable, practical, and enforceable. The recently released NEC 2020 provides information on safe and effective electrical design, installation, and inspection in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. NEC 2020 is available at nfpa.org.
- **National Electrical Installation Standards® (NEIS)** - NECA, in collaboration with several industry organizations, develops and produces the NEIS, the first quality, workmanship standards for electrical construction. The NEIS are comprised of more than 40 ANSI-accredited quality and performance standards for the electrical industry, defining what constitutes quality workmanship in all aspects of electrical construction.

### SAFETY NEWS

**As new technologies emerge, the NECA's NEIS® evolve and keep pace. The standards are constantly providing significant value to those in the electrical designing and engineering communities. The NEIS help professionals in developing design specifications that they reduce and often eliminate specification writing time.**

**Michael Johnston, NECA Executive Director of Standards and Safety**

**NECA Safety Orientation Video** - For NECA member contractor employees, this video covers safety topics electrical foremen and workers must know prior to starting work in the field: Emergency Action Plan, Incident Reporting, Jobsite Safety Meetings, Toolbox Talks. Specific safety topics include: Excavation, Ladder Safety, Lockout/Tagout, Confined Space, PPE, Arc-Flash Hazards, Fall Protection, Hazard Communication, and much more.

**NECA e-Safety Line** - Online subscription provides users with a complete company safety manual, written programs, policies, procedures and forms. Additional features: an industry practices database, NFPA 70E PPE Selector, training materials and a robust record-keeping system.

**NECA Supervisors Guide to Jobsite Safety Training** - The field guide assists project supervisory staff in effectively implementing jobsite safety requirements. It includes review of NECA's Standing Policy on Safety, as well as planning, training and inspection requirements.

“Safety training and good Experience Modification Rates (EMRs) are becoming more essential than ever, and on some levels, they are a condition that must be met to be awarded construction contracts.”

“NECA delivers the most authoritative training by instructors that are at the table where the rules are being developed.”

Michael Johnston, NECA Director of Standards and Safety.

For a complete directory of NECA Greater Boston Chapter member firms, call 1-877-NECA-IBEW or visit us at www.bostonneca.org.
SAFESITES

NECA – Setting the Standard for Electrical Safety (continued)

• NECA Safety Meeting App – NECA Safety Meeting App

An extremely powerful smart phone and tablet-based digital tool designed to streamline the process of holding required safety meetings and jobsite documentation. The Safety Meeting App comes loaded with all the right content and provides multiple functions way beyond just safety meetings and documentation. An essential part of many NECA members safety programs.

• NECA NFPA 70E PPE Selector App – A simplified approach to understanding and applying jobsite PPE requirements of NFPA 70E “Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace.”

• NECA Safety Webinars and Seminars – Covering wide-ranging subjects: NEC Significant Changes, NREL, NFPA 70E, Energy Storage, Microgrids, OSHA Regulatory Updates and many others.

• NECA Safety Professionals Conference (NSPC) – The electrical construction industry’s premier annual safety event, the NSPC provides attendees the most current information on regulation, compliance, management techniques and standards development. Technical educational sessions are presented by expert safety professionals. The 2020 NSPC will be held May 18 - 20 in Scottsdale, AZ.

NECA’s Standing Policy on Safety (article 19), “Safety, Programs and Safe Workers,” recognizes that the foundation for a zero injury environment must include shared responsibility for safety. NECA believes that to achieve zero injuries in the workplace, members must strive for zero energy work environments as a best practice, whenever achievable.

Electrical safety is central to everything NECA contractors do – it is a core value of NECA members. NECA believes safety goes beyond injury prevention; our members provide clients with safety through design and planning, quality craftsmanship, and pass along the cost savings achieved through world-class safety performance.

To learn more about NECA’s safety programs, visit necanet.org. For information on NECA membership, call Glenn Kingsbury, NECA Boston Chapter Executive Manager or Kristen Gowin, Assistant Manager at 617-969-2521.

INDUSTRY SAFETY NEWS

OSHA Implements New Weighting System For Workplace Inspections

WASHINGTON, DC – On October 1, 2019, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational and Health Administration (OSHA) put into effect the new OSHA Weighting System (OWS) for inspections in fiscal year (FY) 2020. This replaces the system that was initiated in 2015.

The new OSHA weighting system incorporates the three major work elements performed by the field: enforcement activity, essential enforcement support functions (e.g., severe injury reporting and complaint resolution), and compliance assistance efforts.

Under the prior enforcement weighting system, OSHA weighted certain inspections based on the time taken to complete the inspection or, in some cases, the impact of the inspection on workplace safety and health. OWS recognizes that time is not the only factor to assess when considering the potential impact of an inspection. Other factors – such as types of hazards inspected and abated, and effective targeting – also influence the impact on workplace safety and health. The new system adds enforcement initiatives such as the Site-Specific Targeting to the weighting system.

PROJECT NEWS

Gaston Electrical Completes Night Shift Brewing at Lovejoy Wharf, Boston

BOSTON, MA – Gaston Electrical recently completed the 12,000 sf electrical fit-out of Night Shift Brewing’s newest microbrewery and pub at 1 Lovejoy Wharf. The Norwood, MA-based NECA contractor’s scope included installation of a complete power distribution system upgrade, new fire alarm system, a low-voltage package, and state-of-the-art lighting and lighting control systems. Gaston worked in tandem with general contractor Cafco Construction of Boston. Night Shift at Lovejoy Wharf opened in spring 2019.

About NECA Greater Boston Chapter

NECA electrical contractors provide a comprehensive range of electrical and tel-data services for diverse projects, large and small. Working in partnership with the union electrical industries in Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire (IBEW Local Unions 103 in Boston, 490 in Concord, NH, 1253 in Augusta, ME and 567 in Lewiston, ME), the NECA Boston Chapter and its contractors have an unwavering commitment to bring the highest levels of experience, quality, reliability, and safety to each construction project.

For a complete directory of NECA Greater Boston Chapter member firms, call 1-877-NECA-IBEW or visit us at www.bostonneca.org.