DECEMBER/NEWS/LETTER 2024



UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

DEC

12

-NUCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HOLIDAY SOCIAL - CHARITY HOPE 4 KIDS

JAN

2025

30

-NUCA OF SWFL INSTALLATION OF **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

-F.T.B.A. CONSTRUCTION 11 - 12 CONFERENCE

MAR

-NUCA OF SWFL SPRING CLAY SHOOT

MAY

-NUCA OF SWFL ANNUAL FISHING **TOURNAMENT**



Thursday December 12th

Come One, Come All to NUCA of Southwest Florida's Holiday Social Where: Crowne Plaza - Ft. Myers - Gulf Coast 9931 Interstate Commerce Dr.

Ft Myers, FL

When: Thursday, December 12th 6 - 8 PM

Appetizers will be provided. Drinks are on your own.

Please Bring Shopping Cards to be Donated to Hope 4 Kids! (Publix, Walmart, Target, etc.)

Hope 4 Kids helps provide for the needs of SWFL children in foster care and for children in working families who are struggling. The donated gift cards will help to provide for these families during the holidays.

Visit HOPESWFLORG for more information



Gift Wishes are available at the STEP ABOVE Resale Store 16440 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908 Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 am to 5pm OR you can make a monetary gift at the link below





The Strangest Insurance Claims of December

The holiday season brings joy, laughter, and sometimes... chaos. Whether it's a dazzling display of lights, a creative security system, or a snowman that refuses to stay put, the holiday spirit often leads to unexpected disasters. Check out these festive claims inspired by your favorite Christmas movies!

Kevin's Staircase Incident

Tar and nails were found coating the basement staircase after an imaginative homeowner's holiday 'security system' was triggered. Claim filed for stair refinishing, drywall patching, and professional consultation on holiday security systems (no more tar, please).

Need Help This Holiday Season?

Accidents happen, even during the most wonderful time of the year. If you need coverage or assistance with your

holiday mishaps, don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to help you get the protection you need—before the next light display turns into a disaster!

The Frosty Slide

A poorly secured rooftop Frosty on the Krank's roof slid down during installation, crashing into the shingles and leaving dents in the siding. The snowman's unexpected slide turned into a literal headache for the homeowner when he too slid off the roof. Claim filed for roof and siding repair—and advice on how to securely fasten seasonal decorations to avoid future snowman incidents.

Those Little Lights Aren't Twinkling

Clark Griswold's attempt to light up the entire neighborhood with 25,000 imported Italian twinkle lights resulted in the ultimate holiday mishap. The overload caused a massive electrical surge that took out power across the neighborhood. Claim filed for electrical repairs, power surge restoration, and a future cap on festive lighting wattage (Clark, maybe next year try a few less lights?).

Jonathan Brooke, CIC, AAI, BSRMI Vice President - Sales Producer

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NUCA of Southwest Florida 2024 Clay Shoot Sponsors





South Florida













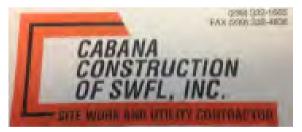




















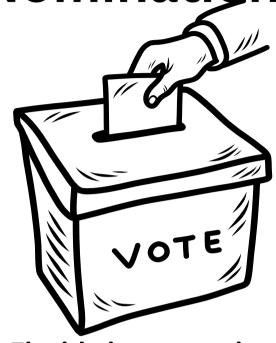








2025 NUCA of Southwest Florida's Board of Directors Nominations



NUCA of Southwest Florida is requesting nominations for the 2025 NUCA of Southwest Florida Board of Directors. We will be installing the Board of Directors at the first membership meeting in January 2025.

If you are interested in serving on the board of directors and representing the members of NUCA SWFL or would like to nominate a member, please let me know by Monday, December 16th. The ballots for the 2025 Board of Directors will be sent out for member vote later this month.

Please note that according to the by-laws a Contractor must hold the office of Vice President and an Underground Contractor must hold the office of President.

LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2025





Support our Advocacy efforts & sponsor NUCA FL's 2025 Legislative Days.

Platinum	. \$2500
Diamond	\$2000
Gold	\$1500
Silver	\$1000
Bronze	\$500
Copper	\$250
Advocacy Friend	\$150

The 2025 Legislative Session kicks off this next year on March 4th. NUCA of Florida is hosting Legislative Days April 1-2, 2025, at A/C Marriott. On April 1st, attendees will gather for a Breakfast

Legislative Briefing from 8 a.m. -10 a.m.

Members will then "walk the halls" and meet one-on-one with legislators at the Capitol.

Industry- specific bills covering fire suppression, development, construction practices, crane regulations, & licensure are all on the table. In the evening, we'll gather with lawmakers for a cocktail reception. On April 2nd, the Executive Committee begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors convenes at 10:30 a.m. Join us in Tallahassee to advocate for the underground

utility industry!

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FloridaCommerce Press Releases

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FloridaCommerce Announces Southwest Florida August 2024 Employment Data

Sep 20, 2024

FloridaCommerce Announces Naples Metro Area has Fastest Over-the-Year Job Growth Rate of all Metro Areas in Leisure and Hospitality Sector in August 20

NAPLES, Fla. — Today, FloridaCommerce announced that the Naples metro area had the fastest over-the-year job growth rate of all metro areas in the leisure and hospitality sector in August 2024, increasing by 9 (+2,500 jobs). The Fort Myers area's private sector employment grew by 4,900 jobs (+1.9%) over the year in August 2024. The Naples area labor force increased by 1.2% (+2,351) since August 2023 and the Fort 1 labor force was down 0.3% (-1,249) over the year in August 2024.

The Naples area had a 3.7% unemployment rate in August 2024, a 0.2 percentage point increase over the year. The Fort Myers area unemployment rate was 3.8% in August 202 percentage point increase over the year.

The Fort Myers area industry that gained the most jobs over the year was construction, increasing by 2,800 jobs.

Florida's private sector job growth continues to surpass the national average, with a growth rate of 2.1% over the year since August 2023, compared to the national rate of 1.4% c same time period. This success is attributed to Florida's strategic investments in workforce education and development, driving high-demand, high-wage jobs that benefit both jot and employers.

Florida's statewide unemployment rate is 3.3%, nearly one percentage point lower than the national rate of 4.2% and has been lower than the national rate for 46 consecutive mc Florida employers have added jobs in 50 of the last 52 months, and Florida's over-the-year private sector job growth rate has exceeded the national rate for 41 consecutive mont

In August 2024 the leisure and hospitality sector gained the most jobs among all major industries, adding 7,300 jobs (+0.6%) from the previous month. This was followed by educ health services, which added 3,900 jobs (+0.3%). Florida's labor force grew by 7,000 (+0.1%) over the year since August 2023.

Governor Ron DeSantis has proclaimed September as Workforce Development Month 🗗 . Since 2019, Florida has invested more than \$8.5 billion in workforce education.

These investments include:

- Nearly \$400 million invested in workforce and infrastructure for the semiconductor industry since 2022.
- ▶ More than \$200 million for the creation and expansion of Florida Career and Technical Education programs through the Workforce Development Capitalization Grant Proc
- More than \$257 million was awarded through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to promote public infrastructure and workforce education opportunities.

Florida's support of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have led to:

- ▶ A 45% increase in registered apprentices.
- ▶ A 40% increase in apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.
- ▶ A 110% increase in apprenticeable occupations.

Florida continues to rank:

- #1 in talent development.
- #1 in higher education.
- #1 economy in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and CNBC.
- ▶ #1 in new business formations, with more than 3.2 million formed since 2019 and 424,144 formed already in 2024.
- ▶ With an annual GDP of nearly \$1.6 trillion, Florida would be the 16th largest economy if it were a country.

Job creators continue to demonstrate great confidence in Florida through their investments, creating high-skill, high-wage jobs. Florida offers hundreds of workforce education an workforce development opportunities for job seekers to gain the skills they need to compete in such an elevated and more competitive job market, ensuring economic resiliency ε success for generations of Floridians to come.

Resources for Job Seekers:

- 🕨 Florida's Labor Exchange Marketplace, Employ Florida 🛂 , connects job seekers to employment, training and education, and also job creators to skilled talent.
- ▶ CareerSource Florida 🛂's network local career centers offer tailored career counseling, skills assessments, resume assistance and job placement support
- ▶ Apprentice Florida 🗗 is a partnership built between the Florida Department of Education, FloridaCommerce and CareerSource Florida to expand apprenticeship program the state.
- ▶ Veterans Florida 🗗 works to help military veterans transition to civilian life connecting veterans with employers who are eager to hire veterans for jobs that align with the their gained serving in the military.
- ▶ The Military Family Employment Advocacy Program 🗗 delivers priority workforce services to active-duty military spouses and family members through Military Family Employment Advocates located in local career centers throughout Florida.

Data in the month of July continues to indicate there are jobs available for every Floridian who wants to work, with more than 405,000 jobs posted online. Floridians in search of v new job opportunities can utilize the CareerSource Florida network for help. Floridians can find guidance on how to register with Employ Florida and search listings of available lo openings. Career seekers also can improve their employability by perfecting resume writing and interviewing skills, establishing career goals, and pursuing customized career tra These services are provided at no cost to job seekers.

To view the August 2024 jobs reports by region, please see below:

▶ Fort Lauderdale

- Jacksonville
- Miami
- Orlando
- Pensacola
- Southwest Florida
- Tampa
- ▶ West Palm Beach

To view August 2024 employment data, visit: www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-press-releases/monthly-press-releases.

Visit Florida Insight for more information on labor market and economic data. Additionally, the Department has provided a video to assist users in explaining the data provided through Florida Insight.

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2025 National Convention Orlando, FL

March 18-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress



NUCA's annual member extravaganza is your gateway to unlocking new business opportunities, expanding your professional network, and gaining cutting-edge industry insights.

Our 2025 National Convention is built to be the utility contractor's best-in-class business and networking experience. Stay ahead of the curve with sessions and meetings featuring industry experts who'll share the latest products, trends, technologies, and regulatory updates. Our popular industry social events return, and we'll cheer on the winner of the first-ever National Equipment Operator Championship!

Enjoy the perfect blend of business and pleasure at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress. With its world-class amenities and proximity to Orlando's top family attractions, this venue offers a unique experience for both you and your guests.

Register today and join us in Orlando in March 2025 to imagine the possibilities ahead for your construction business.



JASON REDMAN
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Join Us For NUCA's Premier Event!

- National Partner Networking Events
- Inaugural National Equipment
 Operator Championship
- Silent Auction & Raffle
- Member & Chapter Excellence Awards
- Industry Committee Meetings
- Profit Pipeline Roundtables
- Educational Sessions on Business, Workforce, Technology & Politics
- Inspiring Speakers, Social and Team Events, And So Much More

Registration is now open! For more information visit

NUCAdigs.com

#NUCA2025



NUCA 2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

March 18 - 21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Spa & Resort | Orlando, FL

THANK YOU TO OUR NUCA NATIONAL PARTNERS!

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☐ Army Corps to outsource Florida 404 permitting

10/15/2024

A letter sent by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) indicates the federal government plans to hand off some portion of Florida wetlands permitting to a third-party contractor.

The letter, dated Sept. 30, informs stakeholders that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division has selected SES Energy Services LLC to support several divisions, including the Jacksonville District Regulatory Division, to review "various Department of the Army permit applications for proposed activities that are subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act."

The letter was sent by Travis Hughes, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program Manager/Technical Team Lead for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, based in Atlanta. SES Energy Services will work on proposed activities in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The announcement comes as legal challenges have plagued the 404 program in Florida since a court ruling in February. A federal District Court judge ruled that the Corps is to re-assume the program from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection following a lawsuit by several environmental groups.

program was transferred from the Corps to DEP in 2020 after the state requested authority to run the permitting process, which involves the discharge of ged or fill material into federal waters. The court ruling was based on arguments from environmental groups that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acted illegally when it transferred authority to the state in 2020.

In May, DEP filed an appeal of the decision and sought a stay pending the appeal process. The Department stated at the time that it, "looks forward to making its case on appeal to defend the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approval of Florida's 404 Permitting Program and overturn the lower court's legal errors." In August, DEP sought and was granted expedited proceedings.

In July, the Corps Jacksonville District announced it would begin accepting and processing 404 applications. At the time, the Corps stated it would be relying on other offices for assistance but was otherwise fully prepared to accommodate the extra workload.

"To minimize delays arising from this increased workload, the Jacksonville District is receiving national support from other USACE Districts and Technical Regional Execution Centers (TRECs) to assist in this effort," its website states. "Some applications for activities in formerly state-assumed waters are being assigned to and reviewed by USACE Regulatory Project Managers in other Districts and TRECs. Applications for projects in formerly state-assumed waters that are received by the Jacksonville District are screened to determine whether they can be assigned to project managers outside of the Jacksonville District. If an application is assigned to another Regulatory District or TREC, the review and final decision on that application will be made by that District or TREC. National Regulatory Program standards will be applied to all Jacksonville District actions. The Jacksonville District will closely coordinate with the reviewing Districts and TRECs to address Florida-specific ecological resources and other relevant information."

The Corps letter outlines a modified procedure that may include a private contractor contacting an applicant during the project review process.

Ahead of this announcement, on August 28th, SES Energy Services advertised a new job opening to "lead regulatory reviews focused on Section 404" [federal wetland permits] to support their Jacksonville office. According to the announcement, SES Energy Services is a subsidiary of Bristol Bay Construction Holdings LLC, a holding company of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation.

It appears that the Corps is outsourcing permit reviews at least partially to meet the backlog of 404 applications transferred from DEP.



(http://www.floridaeverblades.com/)

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Join our upcoming webinar to learn how Arcoro's HR technology, designed for the construction industry, can streamline your workforce processes. Discover how our solutions integrate seamlessly with your ERP, payroll, and project management tools, saving time and improving accuracy.

Key topics include:

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- Connecting your HR tools for maximum efficiency

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Toolbox Talk Tips



- -Become familar with content first so reading goes smooth, speak clearly and direct
- -Conduct talk in areas with the least distractions
- -Use props that are related to topic
- -Give workers an opportunity to ask questions at the end
- -Document your toolbox talks even if OSHA standards do not require documentation. Can't hurt!

-PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH!



Basic Electrical Safety - The Dark Side of Electricity

[Reference 1910 Subpart S / 1926 Subpart K]

One of the most significant advances in the history of the mankind must be the harnessing of electricity for power. Initially, electricity was generated and used to light up homes, and soon after distributed to power factories, offices and other work-sites. It also powers heaters and air conditioners that keep us comfortable year round, life-saving medical devices used in hospitals and clinics, and the computers and similar infrastructure necessary for the expansion of the digital age. And in the not-too-distant future, perhaps, it could be the primary power source for all our vehicles. But electricity is not without its drawbacks; unintentional contact with electrical current can cause severe injuries or death, as can the arc flash created by an electrical short. Here are some of the ways electricity can cause injuries and fatalities:

- Electricity generates heat as it travels through body tissues. This heat can actually cause external burns on your skin where the electrical current enters and exits your body. The heat can also cause internal burns and other major damage to muscles and other internal tissues.
- Electricity flowing through your body can replicate or interfere with the signals being carried through your
 nervous system. In some cases, this can paralyze your muscles for the duration of contact with the electrical
 current. As a result, you could lose your balance and fall off of a ladder, scaffold or other elevated working
 surface and suffer an injury.
- Electrical current running through your body can also restrict your ability to breathe normally, because it can paralyze the muscles used to expand your lungs. And in some cases, it can even interfere with the nerve signals that regulate the rhythm of your heart, which can then cause your heart to fibrillate (or beat irregularly) or go into cardiac arrest.
- An electrical arc flash, which occurs as electricity travels through the air as an electrical short occurs, heats the air in the immediate area to super-hot temperatures. This arc flash can severely burn on your skin, as well as sear the inside of your lungs if you inhale the super-heated air. The extreme temperatures generated by an electrical arc flash can even melt metal, plastics, and other materials, sending molten particles spewing through the air.

These are certainly not the only examples of how inadvertent contact with an electrical current or the occurrence of an electrical arc flash can cause us to be injured or killed. But these examples do drive home why it is extremely important to follow basic precautions when we are working with or near electrical lines, circuits, and equipment. So during the next several monthly toolbox talks, we will cover specific safe work practices we must follow, as well as hazardous conditions to avoid, so we can prevent electrocutions and electrical burns. And just as importantly, these precautions will not only help us protect ourselves at work, they can also help protect us and our family members at home and everywhere else electricity is present.

Does anyone have a quick story to share about you or someone you know who suffered an injury because of electrocution or electrical arc flash?

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