

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2024



Director's Comments:

Spring has officially arrived, and with it brings lots and lots of pollen, as well warm and sunny days. As a result, we likely find ourselves spending more time doing outdoor activities, whether for work or recreation. So, I wanted to use this article as a public service announcement as it relates to our time in the sun.

I had a recent visit to a Dermatologist for a check-up. While there, they noticed three spots that were concerning and wanted to biopsy. Unfortunately, two of the three came back as different forms of skin cancer. The first spot is on my shoulder and is a Basal Cell Carcinoma. That is a very common form of skin cancer and highly treatable. I have a procedure scheduled for early May to have it removed.

However, the second spot located on my left leg was more concerning, as it came back as Melanoma. According to the American Cancer Society, Melanoma accounts for only about 1% of skin cancers but causes a large majority of skin cancer deaths as it is more likely to grow and spread.

Shortly after the diagnosis, I underwent a procedure this month to have the Melanoma removed. I am blessed to report that the pathology reports came back showing that I had clean margins and all nearby lymph nodes appeared to be cancer free. Praise the Lord!

While I'll now make sure to protect my skin moving forward, what I'm dealing with is a result of my past failures to properly do so. Therefore, if you have not been to a Dermatologist recently, I would highly recommend doing so. Especially those like me with fair skin and everyone regardless of complexion in the age demographic that grew up playing or working in the sun and didn't regularly wear sunscreen.

Like with any form of cancer, early detection is key. Stay safe and protected, and I hope you have a Happy Easter!

Tim

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-4
News & Notes	5-12
Legislative News	13-17
CWCC Report	18
Health & Safety	19-20



AUCA 2024 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Arrowhead Country Club

50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

General Meeting & Buffet Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)



Spring General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Guest Speaker: Governor Kay Ivey

Cost: \$25/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a delicious buffet lunch and then hear a presentation from our special guest speaker.

15th Annual Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble Format

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Corporate and Hole Sponsorship opportunities available.

Sign up now before the event fills up!



Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

Cost \$25/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out and enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



APRIL 18, 2024 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.
A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is April 11, 2024

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT



4-PERSON TEAM - \$600

Includes: Lunch, Golf/cart, goodie bag, beverage tickets, prizes, and Low Country Boil

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

4.) _____

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____



INDIVIDUAL - \$150

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



CORPORATE & HOLE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website and logo on all event signage and promotional materials. Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting & Low Country Boil. May also set-up tent on golf course to network with golfers and distribute company prizes or literature during tournament.

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting Lunch: \$25/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$25/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, AL 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org

To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 11th)

Corporate & Hole Sponsors (to Date):



AN ARTERA COMPANY

ALCRETE INDUSTRIES



W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.

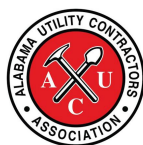


News & Notes:

Mobile Area Industry Lunch Meeting - March 19th
Bradley Byrne - Mobile Chamber President & CEO



Tuscaloosa Area Industry Lunch Meeting - March 27th
Kyle South - West Alabama Chamber President & CEO
Bruce Henderson - Labor & Employment Law Attorney



News & Notes:

2024 AUCA Scholarship Program Award Winners:

After reviewing a record number of applications, the AUCA Board of Directors approved the nominations of six scholarship applicants as recommended by the Scholarship Committee at the March 7th Board Meeting in Montgomery. All recipients have tremendous resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500 per student.

The 2024 AUCA scholarship recipients are:

Jonah Byrd

Jonah is from Morris, AL and will be a Freshman at Auburn University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is a 2024 graduate of Mortimer Jordan High School and the son of Jordan Byrd from American Ductile Iron Pipe Company.

Charles Goodwin

Charlie is from Birmingham, AL and a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Building Science in the College of Architecture Design & Construction. He is a 2021 graduate of Spain Park High School, as well as a 2023 graduate of Wallace State Community College, and the son of Phil Goodwin from U.S. Pipe.

Wilson Patton

Will is from Fort Payne, AL and will be a Freshman at Auburn University majoring in Building Science in the College of Architecture Design & Construction. He is a 2024 graduate of Fort Payne High School and the son of Mark Patton from Benchmark Construction.

Graceson Pugh

Graceson is from Coker, AL and will be a Freshman at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa studying Architectural Graphics and Design Technology. She is a 2024 graduate of Pickens Academy and the daughter of Mark Pugh from Water Services Group.

Kinsey Roberson

Kinsey is from Hoover, AL and will be a Sophomore at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa majoring in Environmental Engineering. She is a 2023 graduate of Hoover High School and the daughter of Josh Roberson from Core & Main.

Mathew Swoboda

Mathew is from Gulf Shores, AL will be a Freshman at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa majoring in Business. He is a 2024 graduate of Orange Beach High School and the grandson of past AUCA President Bill McGough from W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.



News & Notes:

Darren Cleary Named "Ditchdigger of the Year" by NUCA:

Darren Cleary, President of AUCA Member Company Cleary Construction was awarded the "Ditchdigger of the Year" Award by the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) honoring his many years of service to the American underground utility industry.



This national award is awarded to a NUCA contractor member who has made a significant contribution to NUCA and the underground utility construction and excavation industry. The 2023 "Ditchdigger of the Year" Award was presented to Cleary at the NUCA's Annual Meeting held this month at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa in Palm Springs, California.

Alabama Election Primaries:

U.S. Representative Barry Moore defeated fellow U.S. Representative Jerry Carl in the Republican Primary for the newly redrawn 1st Congressional District. Moore does have a Democratic opponent in the general election in November, but is expected to coast to an easy victory.

In the newly redrawn 2nd Congressional District, things aren't quite as clear. Runoff elections for both the Democratic and Republican primary elections will be held on April 16. The winner of those respective contests will then face off against each other in the general election in November. In the Democratic primary, Shomari Figures will face Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels, D-Huntsville. In the Republican primary, former State Senator Dick Brewbaker will face political newcomer Caroleene Dobson.

In Memory of J.D. Gray from J.M. Wood Auction Company:



We are saddened to report the passing of John Daniel (J.D.) Gray on February 28, 2024 at the age of 68 years old. J.D. was mentor to everyone at J.M. Wood Auction Company and to an entire industry. His legendary status in the world of vocational trucks and heavy equipment was well-earned.

At the time of his death, he was the Vice President and Truck Division Manager for J.M. Wood Auction Company, Inc. in Montgomery. Please keep the J.M. Wood Auction family in your thoughts and prayers.



News & Notes:

National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 15-19:

The 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is scheduled for April 15-19. It will be hosted by Maryland Department of Transportation. This year's theme is "Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever."

The 2024 weeklong commemoration included:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 15
- National kickoff event - April 16
- Go Orange Day - April 17
- Social media storm - April 18
- Moment of Silence - April 19

The moment of silence was started in 2022 to remember the men and women whose lives were lost in a work zone incident.

Learn more on how you can participate and make your voice count on the importance of work zone safety. For more information, check out the [NWZAW website](https://www.nwzaw.org/).



2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week
April 15-19, 2024



News & Notes:

OSHA Hits Georgia-Based Company with \$308,125 Fine After Fatal Trench Collapse:

A Georgia-based company faces a hefty fine exceeding \$300,000 from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) due to alleged safety breaches stemming from a trench collapse incident that resulted in the death of a worker in Macon.

The incident occurred on August 10th, where two employees were in the process of installing sewer lines when the trench, measuring 21 feet in depth, caved in. Authorities discovered a 20-year-old man submerged in water and buried under soil, resulting in his death. Another worker sustained severe injuries to the shoulder, pelvis, and leg.

OSHA's investigation revealed that the company had inadequately trained its workers and neglected to provide proper safety gear and equipment. The agency cited the company for three "serious" violations, carrying proposed fines totaling \$33,876, along with two "willful" violations, warranting fines amounting to \$274,249.

In response to the allegations, the company has enlisted legal representation, and intends to file an appeal to contest the findings.

PROTECT WORKERS IN TRENCHES

Prevent trench collapses and save lives:

SLOPE or bench trench walls,

SHORE trench walls with supports, or

SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes






WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627



Working Safely
in Trenches

When done safely, trenching operations can reduce worker exposure to cave-ins, falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and hazards from mobile equipment.



OSHA standards require that trenches and protective systems be inspected daily and as conditions change by a competent person before work begins.

Never enter a trench unless:

- It has been properly inspected by a competent person.
- Cave-in protection measures are in place.
- There is a safe way to enter and exit.
- Equipment and materials are away from the edge.
- It is free of standing water and atmospheric hazards.

Prevent trench collapses:

- Trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system.
- Trenches 20 feet deep or greater require a protective system designed by a registered professional engineer.

Protective systems for trenches:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls by cutting back the trench wall at an angle inclined away from the excavation.
- SHORE trench walls by installing aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement.
- SHIELD trench walls by using trench boxes or other types of supports to prevent soil cave-ins.

For more information:



www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

OSHA 3043 0485 2008



News & Notes:

April is National Safe Digging Month:

April is recognized by Congress and most Governors across the U.S. as National Safe Digging Month (NSDM). During the month, campaigns and activities will focus on promoting safe digging to the general public and professionals nationwide.

Know what's below, 811 before you dig!



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

April is National Safe Digging Month

811beforeyoudig.com

The background of the graphic features a silhouette of an excavator on the left and a worker in a hard hat on the right, set against a sunset sky.



News & Notes:

Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA)

The Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA) was established for the purpose of enforcing the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law, for reviewing penalty provisions, and for reviewing the adequacy of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Program.



The Enforcement Program is a complaint-driven process where a complaint may be submitted against an entity for violation of the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law. A complaint may be submitted as information only and not designated for enforcement penalties.

A complaint may be submitted using the Complaint Form [at this Website](#) no later than 30 days after the occurrence of an alleged violation. The submitted Complaint Form is reviewed by the ALUDPA for determination of an alleged violation and for penalty provisions that may apply. The reported violator is then notified by the ALUDPA that a response may be submitted using the Response Form at this Website no later than 14 days after the ALUDPA notification.

A GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S

Enforcement Process

HOW TO SUBMIT AND RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS
AT WWW.ALUDPA.ORG

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Report any violations within 30 days of incident. Can be reported for info only or enforcement purposes.	Alleged violator will be notified with time/date/location of incident. Alleged violator has 14 days to respond.	Exec. Committee reviews the complaint/response. Then makes a recommendation.	Exec. Committee notifies the alleged violator and complainant of any penalty action recommended.	Alleged violator can accept and pay the penalty, or submit an appeal to be heard by entire Damage Prevention Authority

SUMMER QUICK TRAIN

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN
COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION?**

**JUNE 5 - JULY 1
11 AM - 3 PM**



This course is designed and recommended for recently graduated high-school students and adults who are interested getting a head start on learning a trade in the commercial construction industry. This is a 4 week program that will teach you basic construction skills, construction safety and employability skills that contractors are looking for when hiring.

- Basic Safety
- Basic Hand and Power Tools
- Intro to Construction Math
- Intro to Construction Drawings
- Basic Rigging
- Basic Communication Skills
- Basic Employability Skills
- Intro to Material Handling

STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE 4 WEEK PROGRAM WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL AREA CONTRACTORS FOR POTENTIAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.



APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code to
access the online application.
Applications due no later than
June 1, 2024.



Alabama Legislative News:

Through March, lawmakers have completed 17 of the possible 30 legislative meeting days of the 2024 Alabama Legislative Session. To date, a total of 382 bills have been introduced in the House and 259 in the Senate. The Legislature will return for the 18th legislative day on Tuesday, April 2nd.

A significant portion of the first half of the session has been devoted to addressing legislation on gaming, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs, school choice/education savings accounts (CHOOSE Act), and in-vitro fertilization (IVF). The CHOOSE Act, IVF, ballot harvesting and DEI bills have passed and been signed into law by Governor Ivey. The gaming legislation faces an uncertain outlook because of continued divisions between the House and Senate over sports betting and the number of casino sites.

Governor Ivey and top Alabama lawmakers from both parties introduced the seven-bill "Working for Alabama" legislative package at a news conference outside the State Capitol that is designed to increase labor participation. When lawmakers return, they will likely be able to focus their attention on these bills and other issues including passage of the Education Trust Fund and General Fund Budgets, which is the only Constitutionally required responsibility of the Legislature.



Phil Goodwin from U.S. Pipe, AUCA President Jay Holcomb from Lambert, Inc. and AUCA Director Tim Ayers visit with State Representative Mike Kirkland (who also works for AUCA member Vulcan Materials Company) at the annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day on March 7th in Montgomery.



Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 13)

2024 Alabama Legislative Session Newly Introduced Bills of Interest to AUCA Members:

HB336 - County and Municipal Authorities

Relating to county and municipal authorities; to amend Section 11-88-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for water, sewer, and fire protection authorities by permitting an individual holding a state, county, or municipal office to be eligible for uncompensated membership on an authority board of directors; and to delete duplicative language and make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

HB337/SB234 - Public Contracts

Relating to public contracts; to amend Section 41-16-51, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-544, 2023 Regular Session, to further provide for an exemption to the competitive bidding requirements, to include certain county public building authorities within the exemption.

HB382 - Protesting Competitive Bid Contracts

To amend Sections 41-4-161, 41-4-164, 41-16-82, 41-16-83, 41-16-85, and 41-16-87, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide further for the procedures for protesting certain competitive bid contracts.

SB224 - Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing

To establish the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing within the Department of Labor.

SB228 - Eastern Bypass Around Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport

To propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Tuscaloosa County; to provide for the establishment of a special fund for the purpose of matching federal funds to be used for funding the completion of the eastern bypass around the City of Tuscaloosa and the City of Northport.

SB231 - Labor Unions and Economic Development Incentives

Relating to labor organizations; to condition an employers' eligibility for economic development incentives upon the employer refraining from certain practices relating to employee representation by a labor organization; and to provide oversight.

"Working for Alabama" Package of Bills:

HB344/SB247 - Alabama Workforce Transformation Act

This bill would merge and consolidate duplicative workforce development agencies, programs, and funding mechanisms into one single, repurposed state agency that will be led by a cabinet-level official who has primary responsibility for the state's workforce development activities.

HB346/SB250 - Housing Tax Credit

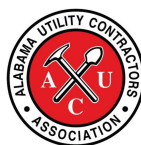
This bill would establish a state workforce housing tax credit like programs implemented in 29 other states. It would complement the existing federal housing tax credit program created by the Reagan Administration designed to incentivize private capital investment in the development of affordable workforce housing.

HB349/SB242 - Innovation District Act

This bill would authorize local governments to create a new type of local entity to undertake and incentivize economic development projects in certain business sectors identified by the Alabama Department of Commerce. The district would be functionally like a cooperative district or industrial development board and have bonding authority to raise funds for projects in the district.

HB358 - Childcare Tax Credit

This bill would create tax credits to incentivize employers to fund childcare options and childcare providers to expand access to and quality of childcare. The tax credits would be available for employers that provide on-site childcare or stipends to employees for childcare expenses. Tax credits would also be available to for-profit childcare providers that voluntarily participate in the state's childcare quality rating program, and donors to nonprofit childcare providers for the improvement or operation of the facilities.



Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 14)

HB368/SB243 - Innovation District Act Constitutional Amendment

This bill would propose a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to authorize counties and municipalities to provide for the incorporation of innovation districts as public corporations and provide for their powers and to exempt innovation districts from certain laws.

HB372/SB252 Alabama Growth Alliance Act

This bill would create the Alabama Growth Alliance, a public corporation governed by a board of public and private leaders. The Alabama Growth Alliance would be formed to coordinate the development, tracking, as well as providing input and support for the creation and maintenance of the state's long-range economic development strategy, annual objectives, and key tactics to achieve the long-range strategies.

HB373/SB253 - Alabama Workforce Pathways Act

This bill would establish a Workforce Pathways diploma at the K-12 level and reinvest in Career & Technical Education (CTE) centers across the state. This pathway would better prepare those students to enter the workforce and/or earn credentials that will help lead directly to employment in their chosen field.

Previously Introduced Bills of Interest to AUCA Members:

HB11 - Occupational Licensing Boards

Relating to boards and agencies; to prohibit state agencies and occupational licensing boards from prohibiting or restricting an individual from publicly disclosing certain information relating to an employee's or contractor's misfeasance, malfeasance, or potential criminal activity.

HB61 - ESG Criteria Prohibited in Public Contracts

Relating to public contracts; to prohibit the consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria when awarding a public contract; and to require a responsible bidder, as a condition of being awarded a public contract, to certify, under penalty of perjury, that its employees will not be subject to a personal ESG rating as a basis of hiring, firing, or evaluation.

HB102/SB53 - Child Labor Laws

Under existing law, a person 14 or 15 years of age is required to obtain an eligibility to work form to be able to work. This bill would eliminate the eligibility to work form.

HB110 - Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers

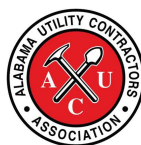
Under existing law, there is an intrastate hours of service limitation applied to drivers of commercial motor vehicles operating in intrastate transportation, within a 75 air-mile radius of their normal work reporting location, following 10 consecutive hours off duty, except when prohibited by federal rule or law. This bill would increase the air-mile radius for intrastate motor carriers from 75 to 150 to reflect the current federal allowance.

HB189 - State Transportation Commission

Relating to the State Department of Transportation; to establish the State Transportation Commission; to provide for the members, duties, responsibilities, and compensation and expenses of the commission; to prohibit a person serving on the State Transportation Commission from benefiting by entering employment with or contracting with companies that do business with the State Department of Transportation while he or she serves on the commission or for a period of two years thereafter; to provide for the appointment and duties of the Director of the State Department of Transportation; and for this purpose to amend Sections 23-1-21 and 23-1-21.2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the appointment and authority of the Director of the State Department of Transportation.

HB227 - Code of Ethics

Relating to government ethics; to amend Sections 13A-10-60 and 13A-10-61, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further for the crime of bribery; to add Section 13A-10-61.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to establish the crime of using public office for pecuniary benefit; to



Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 15)

repeal Sections 13A-10-62 and 13A-10-82, relating to crimes in public office; to repeal Chapter 25 and add a new Chapter 25B to Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975, to replace the public ethics code; to provide further for the appointment of members of the State Ethics Commission and the director of the commission; to revise the duties of the commission; to revise the scope of penalties for violations of the ethics code to include private censures and public reprimands and to exclude criminal violations; to provide for appeals of decisions of the commission; to provide further for formal and informal advisory opinions issued by the commission; to revise who must file and what must be disclosed in the Statement of Economic Interests; to provide definitions; to prohibit public servants from taking official action that would result in a conflict of interest; to prohibit certain persons termed "prohibited sources" from giving gifts to certain public servants and prohibit public servants from receiving gifts from certain prohibited sources; to revise the revolving door provisions; to add Section 36-15-1.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the duties of the Attorney General; to amend Section 11-3-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to make conforming changes to provisions governing certain public contracts entered into by counties; and to define terms.

HB263 - Blasting Operation of Rock Quarries in Limestone County
Relating to Limestone County; to regulate the blasting operations of rock quarries outside the corporate limits of any municipality under certain conditions.

HB264 - Blasting Operation of Rock Quarries in Limestone County
Relating to Limestone County; to regulate the blasting operations of rock quarries outside the corporate limits of any municipality under certain conditions.

HB278 - Career and Technical Education Programs
Relating to public K-12 education; to authorize home school students to participate in certain career and technical education programs at public schools; to provide standards relating to a home school student's participation; and to require the State Board of Education and local boards of education to adopt rules.

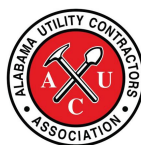
HB315 - Alabama Move Over Act
Relating to the Alabama Move Over Act; to amend Section 32-5A-58.2, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the penalties for a violation; to provide increased criminal penalties under certain circumstances; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

SB38 - Business License
Under existing law, a municipality may require a business to obtain a local business license that is based on gross receipts. This bill would allow any business paying a municipal business license based on gross receipts to deduct from gross receipts any excise tax imposed by the federal, state, and local governments.

SB60 - Development of Alabama's Inland Ports and Waterways
To authorize the transfer of additional motor fuel excise taxes to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; and to authorize the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to facilitate and coordinate the development, improvement, maintenance, and construction of inland ports and transfer facilities within the state.

SB79 - Occupational Licensing Boards
Relating to occupational licensing boards; to amend Section 41-9A-2, Code of Alabama 1975; to require an occupational licensing board to determine whether an individual's criminal conviction disqualifies him or her from obtaining an occupational license in certain circumstances; to add Section 41-9A-2.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit an occupational licensing board from using certain terms in rulemaking as reasons for disqualification from licensure and to limit the circumstances under which an occupational licensing board may consider an individual's criminal record when determining if the individual qualifies for licensure; to repeal Chapter 26 of Title 12, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to orders of limited relief; and to require occupational licensing boards to include certain information on official websites.

SB115 - State Licensing Board for General Contractors Sunset Bill
Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the State Licensing Board for General Contractors until October 1, 2027.



Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 16)

SB116 - Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board Sunset Bill

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board until October 1, 2025, with certain modifications; to amend Section 34-21A-4, Code of Alabama 1975, to allow an organizational meeting of the board to be considered a regular quarterly meeting of the board.

SB119 - Child Labor Laws

Under existing law, an employer who violates child labor laws is subject to civil and criminal penalties. This bill would increase civil and criminal penalties for an employer who violates child labor laws.

SB122 - Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors Sunset Bill

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors until October 1, 2026, with certain modifications; to amend Sections 34-36-7 and 34-36-16, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit the issuance of new provisional electrical contractors licenses; and to permit the renewal of existing provisional electrical contractors licenses.

SB138 - Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board Sunset Bill

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the State of Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board until October 1, 2028.

SB155 - Joint Transportation Committee

Relating to transportation; to amend Section 29-2-4, Code of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-534 of the 2023 Regular Session, to require the Department of Revenue rather than the Department of Transportation to annually report to the Joint Transportation Committee the total amount of local motor fuel excise tax revenues collected for the immediately preceding fiscal year and the total amount of the revenues expended on road and bridge maintenance and improvement during that same fiscal year; and to require the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts rather than the Joint Transportation Committee to complete an annual report of the performance of the Department of Transportation in terms of highway construction, maintenance, and costs of the same.

SB176 - Alabama Career RoadMap Act

Relating to public K-12 education and two-year institutions of higher education; to create the Alabama Career RoadMap Act; to provide legislative findings; to require the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to develop a career readiness module and a list of Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunities; to require each public high school student to complete the module and a Career RoadMap Postsecondary Opportunity prior to graduating high school; to require each local board of education to collaborate with local community colleges; and to require ACCS and the State Board of Education to adopt policies, procedures, and rules.

Remember to check our weekly "Legislative Pipeline" email report for continuous Legislative updates



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Ryan Sharpe - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

2024 CWCC PRIORITIES

OVERALL GOAL - To ensure that commitments for robust FY25 funding for programs of interest to the Coalition are met and expanded, given that *more funding means more projects and more projects means more jobs*.

PRIORITY #1: Increase FY25 Funding (Base Appropriations) and Defend Commitments (IIJA)

- *Increase funding for Clean Water, Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Water Reuse Programs as follows:*
 - **Clean Water SRF Base Funding at a minimum of \$4.490 billion**
 - (\$1.240 billion President's FY25 Budget Request + \$3.250 billion IIJA FY25)
 - **Drinking Water SRF Funding at a minimum of \$4.376 billion**
 - (\$1.126 billion President's FY25 Budget Request + \$3.250 billion IIJA FY25)
 - **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), including State WIFIA (SWIFIA) at a minimum of \$80 million.**
- If Congress chooses to continue the use of Congressionally Directed Spending (earmarks) for water infrastructure projects, these funds must be in addition to the overall EPA budget and **NOT** come out of the baseline SRF funding.
- Enactment of the **STREAM Act (S.2162)** which authorizes \$750 million for surface and ground-water projects, \$100 million for disadvantaged communities drinking water projects, \$150 million for desalination projects, and \$240 million for environmental restoration projects.
- Funding **at a minimum of \$20 million for Title XVI WIIN grants** and increased Federal share for water reuse projects.
- **Funding** for the SRF's, Alternative Water Source Program and other water programs of interest should legislative opportunities arise.

PRIORITY # 2: Accelerate the Work

Enactment of legislation, policies, regulations, and specifications that accelerate the project pipeline and bring more water projects to construction in a timely manner. Advocate that EPA require State SRF's to streamline review and approval processes for the replacement or improvement of existing water infrastructure assets.

PRIORITY #3: Buy America

While the Coalition supports Buy America's core purpose of strengthening domestic manufacturing, it also believes that in situations where Buy America requirements are not practical, cause confusion, threaten project delays, increase costs, etc., a waiver of such requirements should be permitted by law.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month. While PPE should be the last resort ([PPE hierarchy](#)), hard hats are often the last line of defense and required for many tasks and job sites. Below is a toolbox talk on hard hat safety.

Hard Hats

There really is no excuse for not wearing a hard hat on jobs where it is required. Hard hat manufacturers have designed head protection to fit every need and pretty much every preference. From falling or flying objects to electrical shock exposure, hard hats should be worn on all jobs where hazards exist.

Injury Prevention

Head injuries can occur in many ways, such as from falling tools, falling tree limbs, objects hanging from or dropping from overhead cranes, and much more.

The security offered by a hard hat can prevent significant injury. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that most workers who suffered major impact injuries to the head were not wearing head protection. Alarmingly, a single injury to an unprotected head can handicap you for life—or even kill you.

Maintaining Hard Hat Quality

Hard hats should be treated with care. If one is damaged or the suspension cushion doesn't fit well, the hat should be replaced.

Hard hats should also be kept clean, and if a hard hat is assigned to someone after having been used by another employee, it should be sanitized.

Never paint or alter a hard hat. The paint will soften the shell and cause other damage.

Types of Hard Hats

Hard hats consist of three different classes: C, G and E. Class C, or conductive, protects against falling objects and are not designed for use around live electrical wire or corrosives. Class E, or electrical, protects against falling objects and electrical shocks up to 20,000 volts. Class G, or general, protects against falling objects and electrical shock up to 2,200 volts.

No single hard hat necessarily fills the protection requirements of all types of jobs, so naturally it is important to follow safety rules and always wear the type of hardhat specified and issued for your particular job.



Health & Safety:

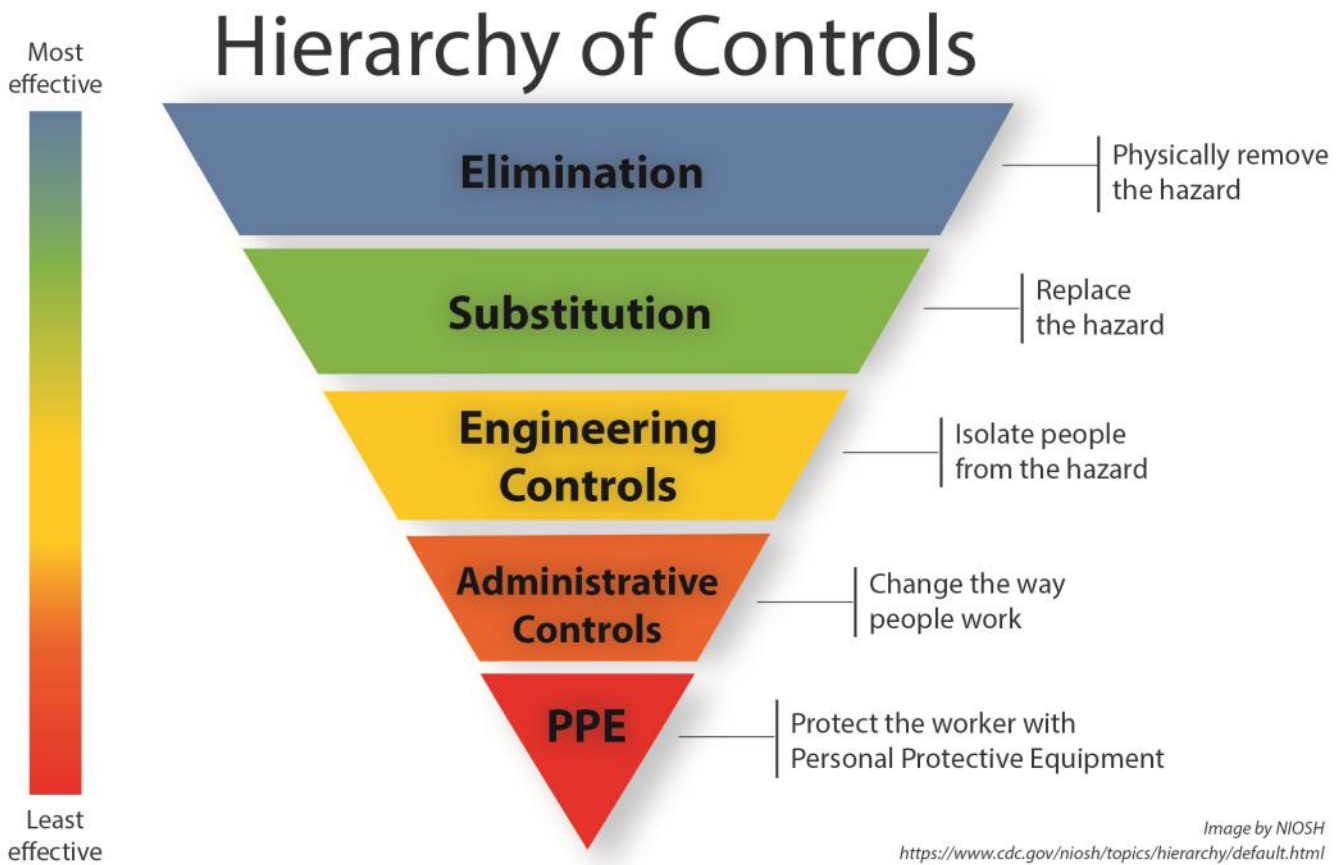
(Continued from page 19)

Chin straps and winter liners are also used with some hard hats. But they shouldn't contain metallic parts or conductive material. Likewise, if liners or straps are used on jobs where there is danger of ignition from heat, flame or chemical reaction, they should be made of non-burning materials.

Use Your Head

An injury report never makes for pleasant reading. But it's particularly disturbing to read that the injured person was instructed to wear a hard hat, but chose not to.

Remember, a hard hat not only provides protection, but it's an indicator that the person wearing it is definitely using their head.



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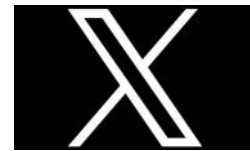
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