

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARCH 2025



Director's Comments:

The 2025 Alabama Legislative Session has passed the midpoint, with lawmakers having met in Montgomery for 16 of the allotted 30 legislative days since the session commenced in early February. To date, a total of 746 bills have been introduced between the House and Senate and several of these bills could significantly affect our industry.

On March 6th, AUCA hosted its annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day at the State House in Montgomery. This event united AUCA members to advocate collectively, and provide legislators with important insights on several key industry issues.

This includes the introduction of SB232 and HB443, which seek to amend the Alabama One-Call Law. The Underground Damage Prevention Program administers the One-Call Notification System, which is vital for preventing injuries, protecting underground infrastructure, and minimizing service disruptions caused by excavation or demolition activities. The 2019 legislation mandated that all underground facility operators in Alabama participate in this system, but this requirement is set to expire at the end of 2026.

The proposed bills, SB232 and HB443, would extend the sunset clause to January 1, 2035, ensuring the continued protection of underground utilities and public safety. The passage of either of these bills is critical for the industry, and we will continue to monitor their progress closely.

In addition to our legislative efforts, we are excited about our upcoming Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament, and Crawfish Boil, scheduled for April 24th at Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery. This event offers a fantastic opportunity for networking, friendly competition, and great food, bringing together industry professionals for a day of camaraderie and fun.

Mark your calendar and be part of the excitement!

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Tim

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Alabama 811 Hosted Area Damage Prevention Meetings
See Pages 3-4 for Dates & Locations

***AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***
Thursday, April 24, 2025
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2025
Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2025 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL



AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings
Dates and Locations To Be Announced



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

2nd Quarter Alabama 811 Hosted Area Damage Prevention Meetings



Know what's below.
Contact **811** before you dig.

Focus Area: We will be focusing on results from an anonymous locator survey asking what works well, what doesn't work well, etc.

We'd like to again invite you to attend one of the following area underground utility coordination and damage prevention meetings being held in your areas. We are going to continue to meet quarterly and establish these meetings with the intent of helping coordinate damage prevention efforts and give you the opportunity to help get any local issues resolved. Communication is the key in many scenarios, and these meetings are a key piece in the communication process and will help to build and foster relationships.

This quarter we are adding some additional content and plan to work through some of the results of an anonymous poll we sent out to a sample of locator groups throughout the state (contract, single utility, multi-utility) asking what works best when arriving on a job site, what is one of the biggest frustrations in terms of information provided on a ticket, is white paint effective, etc..

While we can all agree improvement can be made from all parties involved, the results of the poll could help provide you with some good tips and recommendations to help ensure you get a more timely and accurate locate. Again, it's not about pointing fingers, it's about how we can all get better.

Who should attend?

Utilities, Excavators/Contractors, Line Locators, State and County Transportation, Engineers, Municipalities, Surveyors and other related groups involved in activities around underground utilities.

April 10th: 8:30am
Baldwin County Area
413 E. Laurel Ave.
Foley, AL 36535

April 15th: 11am
Madison, Limestone, Morgan Area
Greenbrier Restaurant
27028 Old Hwy 20
Madison, AL 35756



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

(Continued from page 3)

April 17th: 8:30am
Mobile County Area
Mobile Area Water and Sewer System
4725 Moffett Road
Mobile, AL 36618

April 17th: 11am
Shelby County Area
Alabaster Water Board
200 Kent Stone Blvd
Alabaster, AL 35007

April 22nd: 8am
Montgomery Area
Montgomery Waterworks
2000 Interstate Park Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36109

April 22nd: 11am
Auburn Area
Hubert and Grace Harris Center
425 Perry Street
Auburn, AL 36830

April 29th: 8:30am
Jefferson County Area
Fultondale Event Center
2980 Hawkins Ln
Fultondale, AL 35068

April 29th: 12pm
Dothan Area
Southeast Gas in Enterprise
102 Lester Drive
Enterprise, AL 36330
(Southeast Gas will provide lunch)

May 1st: 11am
Tuscaloosa Area Meeting
Tuscaloosa Water and Wastewater
Hiller Fletcher Resource Recovery
4010 Reese Phifer Ave
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

RSVP by Clicking the Link: [Alabama 811 Area Damage Prevention Meetings](#)
or Scanning the QR Code



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 17th)

Corporate & Hole Sponsors (to Date):





AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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: Andy Burcham

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.

16th 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 24, 2025 - 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 17, 2025

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.

News & Notes:

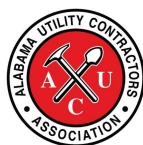
AUCA Birmingham Area Industry Lunch Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Guest Speaker: Daniel White, P.E. - Deputy Director of Jefferson County Environmental Services Department



The Jefferson County, Alabama 1996 Sewer Consent Decree was a federal mandate requiring the county to overhaul its sewer system to address environmental violations under the Clean Water Act. The decree led to massive infrastructure projects funded by significant borrowing, ultimately contributing to the county's 2011 bankruptcy, one of the largest municipal bankruptcies in U.S. history at the time.

The consent decree remained in effect for decades as the county worked to meet compliance requirements. After years of legal battles, financial restructuring, and extensive sewer system improvements, Jefferson County was finally released from the decree in 2023. The conclusion marked the end of a long and costly chapter in the county's history, allowing local officials greater financial and operational flexibility in managing the sewer system moving forward.



News & Notes:

2025 AUCA Scholarship Program Award Winners:

After reviewing the applications received, the AUCA Board of Directors approved the nominations of two scholarship applicants as recommended by the Scholarship Committee at the March 6th Board Meeting in Montgomery. Both recipients have tremendous resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500 per student.

The 2025 AUCA scholarship recipients are:

Luke Patton

Luke is from Fort Payne, AL and will be a Freshman this fall at Auburn University where he plans to major in Civil Engineering. He is a 2025 graduate of Fort Payne High School and the son of Mark Patton from Benchmark Construction. Luke has also spent the past few summers helping install water, sewer, and underground fiberoptic utilities for Benchmark Construction, and will be working there again this summer before heading to Auburn.

Cole Tignor

Cole is from Clanton, AL and will be a Senior at Auburn University where he is majoring in Civil Engineering. He is a 2022 graduate of Chilton County High School and the son of Kyle Tignor from Chilton Contractors. In addition to his studies at Auburn, Cole has also worked as a Technician for Clanton Tractor and as a Professional Civil Engineer Trainee with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Contractor's Group Retirement Planning:

BenSource Employee Benefits, an AUCA member company, is staffed to take your call with any questions you may have about starting a retirement plan, or to compare your current plan with the ***Contractor's Retirement Plan***.

Here are just few of the unique benefits of this plan:

- Eliminates all TPA costs, all audit costs, 5500 costs and document costs
- Greatly reduces employee investment costs - the *power* of group buying
- Eliminates nearly all of the HR tasks typically associated with 401k
- Diverts the significant fiduciary liability away from the business owner

BenSource can be reached at (205) 536-9204 or online at www.bensource.com.



News & Notes:

National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 21-25:

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) 2025 will be held April 21-25, hosted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The national kickoff event is hosted by a selected state department of transportation (DOT) and focuses on the safety of roadway workers and the importance of staying alert to work zones. This year's NWZAW theme is "Respect the zone so we all get home."

The 2025 weeklong commemoration events include:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 21
- National kickoff event - April 22
- Go Orange Day - April 23
- Social media storm - April 24
- Moment of Silence - April 25

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](#).



Grants Available Now

Let CICT Help Fund Your Craft Training Program



If you currently offer or would like to provide craft training within the commercial construction industry, you're eligible to apply for grants from the **Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training (CICT) Board**. These grants include funding for contractors' in-house training programs. In the fiscal year 2023, CICT awarded over \$5 million, which helped fund training for more than 4,000 students across 93 training programs.

Types of Grants:

CICT grants are reimbursable grants and applications may be submitted at any time.

1. Craft/Apprenticeship Training Grant

- Up to \$100,000 per trade.
- Skills/craft tied to a specific trade.

2. Task Grant

- Up to \$15,000.
- Short-term/seminar-type training.

Eligible Training Providers:

- Alabama commercial construction business, for-profit and not-for-profit.
- 2-year and 4-year accredited postsecondary institution recognized by SACS.
- K-12 education entity recognized by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Trade union.
- Other related entities approved by the board.



Go Build Alabama connects training programs awarded by CICT to career-seekers interested in the skilled trades. Together, Go Build Alabama and CICT can help build a qualified workforce that meets Alabama's growing demand for skilled construction workers.

Apply for funding now at alcict.com



The mission of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute and the Go Build Alabama campaign is to recruit a new generation of skilled tradespeople for the commercial and industrial construction industry, by creating a recruitment campaign that dispels the misperceptions about working in the trades, promotes training programs, and enhances the image of the construction trade professional and the industry as a whole.

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!

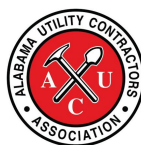


811[®]

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

April is National Safe Digging Month

811beforeyoudig.com



News & Notes:

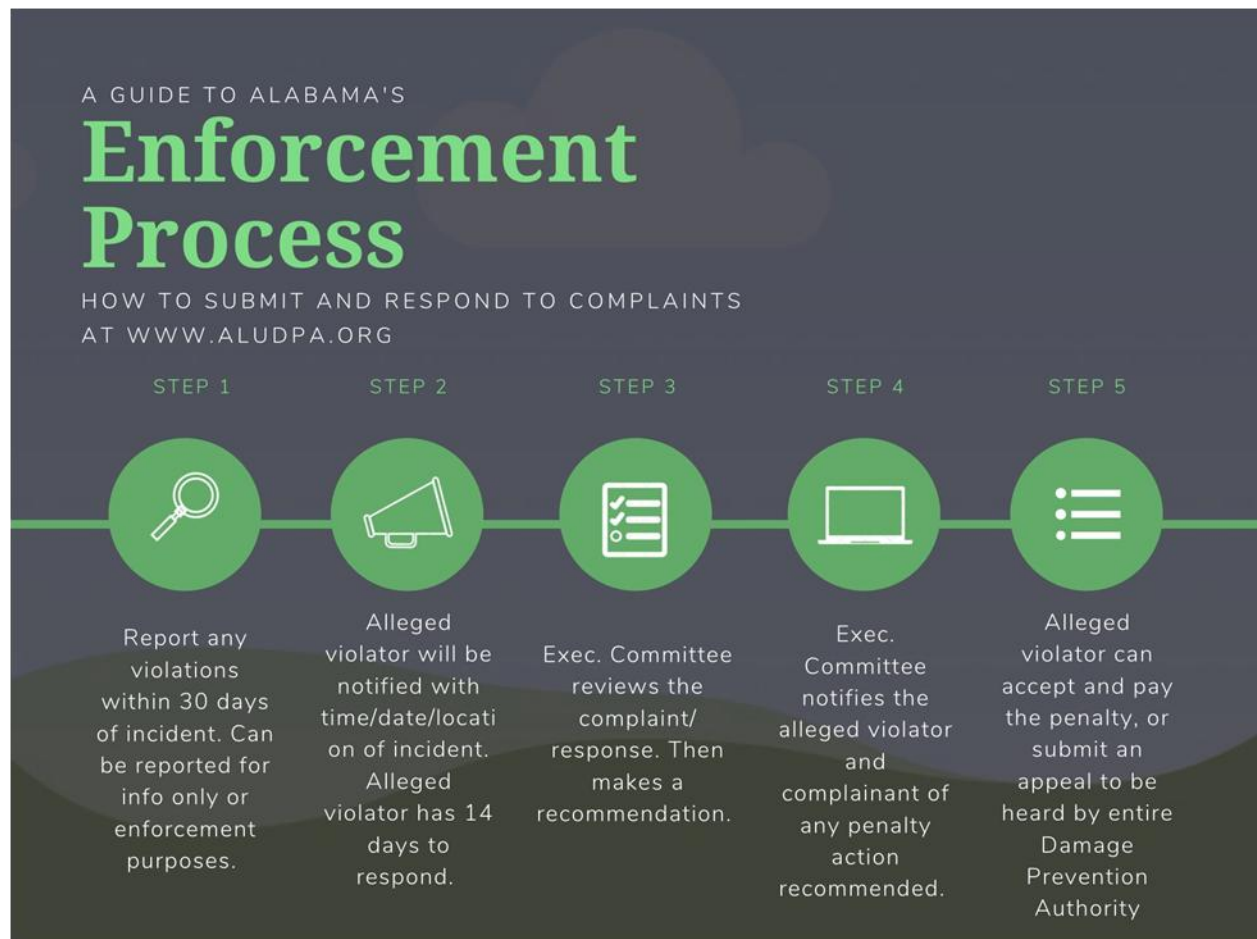
Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA)

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.



Alabama Legislative News:

Alabama 2025 Legislative Session Update:

In March, Alabama lawmakers took two weeklong breaks - the first week for a District Work Week to meet with constituents and the second for their traditional Spring Break during the last full week of the month. They will return to Montgomery on Tuesday, April 1, for the 17th legislative day. So far, 746 bills have been introduced, including 478 in the House and 268 in the Senate. The Legislative Session is limited by law to 30 session days within a 105-calendar day period, so it must conclude no later than May 19, 2025.



On March 6 AUCA held its annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day at the State House in Montgomery. This event brought AUCA members together to advocate as a unified voice, educating legislators on several key issues affecting the industry.

A long-anticipated pair of bills, SB232 and HB443, addressing the Alabama One-Call Law, have now been introduced. The passage of either bill is critical for the industry. Under current law, the Underground Damage Prevention Program administers the One-Call Notification System to prevent injuries, protect underground infrastructure, and minimize service disruptions caused by excavation or demolition. The 2019 legislation requires all operators of underground facilities in Alabama to participate in and use the One-Call Notification System. However, this mandatory membership requirement is subject to a statutory sunset clause, set to expire at the end of 2026. The passage of either SB232 and HB443 would extend the sunset clause to January 1, 2035, ensuring the continued protection of underground utilities and public safety.

Since the start of the legislative session, five bills have been introduced to amend Alabama's public works advertising laws. Among them, HB320 has passed the House of Representatives. HB320 maintains the statutory requirement for awarding agencies to publish newspaper advertisements when soliciting bids for public works projects. However, it also promotes alternative notification methods, such as posting on a statewide website. These additional measures aim to mitigate errors in newspaper publications, which under current law can invalidate the bid process.

HB320 now moves to the Senate, where it has been referred to the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development Committee for further consideration.

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



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Kyle England - Chairman CWCC & Mae Stevens - Banner Public Affairs

Trump Administration Commences Second Term with Flurry of Executive Orders

In what is considered standard practice for an incoming administration, the start of Trump's second term has been marked by a flurry of executive orders aimed at reshaping the government and rescinding orders of the past. As of February 27, the Trump Administration has issued a record 73 executive orders. Through these actions, the Executive Branch has initiated the creation of a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the termination of DEI policies and programs, the declaration of a national energy emergency and the identification of regulations that can be scaled further back.

The Trump Administration has fired or placed on administrative leave over 10,000 government employees from numerous agencies in efforts to drive efficiency by cutting back. Approximately 75,000 federal employees had previously accepted the "Fork in the Road" offer to quit federal service and continue to be paid through September 30, and a judge ruled in mid-February that that deferred resignation plan can move forward. On February 26, the White House released a memo directing agencies to submit their plans for Reductions in Force (RIF) by March 13. These RIFs would eliminate positions entirely, rather than simply terminating employees. The same memo stated that additional plans for agency workforce consolidation are to be submitted to the White House by April 14 and subsequently implemented by September 30.

New Water Hires at the EPA

Former member of the House of Representatives, Lee Zeldin has been confirmed to take over as EPA Administrator under the Trump Administration. While he does not have a significant track record supporting water infrastructure issues, he did support legislative actions to remediate PFAS during his time in Congress. During his confirmation process, Zeldin provided commitments to prioritize water infrastructure policy solutions, and particularly addressing rural community water infrastructure challenges. He recently released his five pillars for "Powering the Great American Comeback," which included ensuring access to clean air, land, and water as pillar number one. These are of course all soft commitments, but it is encouraging to see positive messaging on water issues coming from EPA leadership.

Jess Kramer has been formally nominated to serve as the Administrator of the EPA Office of Water (OW) – the top official for water infrastructure issues in the Trump Administration. Kramer was the top water infrastructure staffer for Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), the Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. In this role, Kramer was instrumental in the drafting and passage of the water infrastructure portions of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), creating \$55 billion in direct appropriations for water infrastructure.

In early discussions with staff at Banner Public Affairs, Kramer has indicated that she does not anticipate further efforts to pause or cut EPA's water infrastructure funding programs.

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 15)

Congressional Reconciliation

Congressional Republicans are focused on advancing the major components of President Trump's policy platform early this year via budget reconciliation. This process allows a majority party to pass legislation with a simple majority of votes in both chambers, bypassing the Senate's filibuster, which requires 60 votes to pass most legislation. Democrats most recently used the reconciliation process to pass the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) during the Biden Administration.

Republicans are now looking to pass a reconciliation package that includes defense, immigration, energy, and tax policy provisions. To fund these provisions, Congress will look to programs across the federal government to find revenue cuts. Water infrastructure programs are not believed to be at high-risk but we will be tracking this process closely and will be submitting a letter on behalf of the Coalition urging against any cuts to water.

Both chambers have gotten through the first step of this process – passing a budget resolution that sets the framework for a full legislative package. Republican leaders now must get square on a series of variables to determine the path forward. We expect this to be a lengthy process that takes up much of Congress' attention in the coming months.

FY25 Appropriations

Government funding for FY 2025 runs out on Friday, March 14. While Congress has focused much of its energy on the reconciliation process outlined above, appropriators have been working in the background to negotiate funding levels through the remainder of the fiscal year, with very little success to date. The Trump Administration and GOP leadership has instructed the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) to prepare a continuing resolution to fund the government through the end of the year with no large changes to the current FY24 funding levels. Both sides of the aisle will need to iron this out to avoid a possible government shutdown.

FY26 Appropriations

It is not yet clear when formal actions will begin to consider the FY26 appropriations process. The appropriations committees will not release guidance for how member offices and stakeholders should approach FY26 until FY25 is addressed.

This includes both the standard process for programmatic funding requests, such as the requests we will be submitting related to full funding for the SRFs and other key water infrastructure programs, as well as the process for congressional earmarks. The CWCC and Banner Public Affairs will be closely plugged into these discussions.

Other Legislative Issues



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 16)

All bills pending at the end of the 118th Congress “died” on January 3 and will need to be reintroduced to be considered during the 119th Congress. This includes priorities that the coalition supported such as the STREAM Act and the DROUGHT Act. We will be tracking for reintroduction of these measures, as well as all other pertinent water policy legislation that the coalition may want to weigh in on – either in support or opposition.

The biggest legislative vehicle for water policy issues in the 119th Congress is likely to be the 2026 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The early stages of work on this legislation will begin soon. Notably, 2026 marks the sunset of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and its direct appropriations for water infrastructure through the SRF programs. WRDA 2026 will be Congress’ primary opportunity to reauthorize all EPA water programs, as well as to determine whether more direct funding can be created to continue BIL’s historic injection of funding.

BANNER



Fleet Safety:

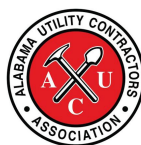
Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

Spring is here – be prepared for the new driving hazards

While there is still snow falling in parts of the country, Spring brings some different driving hazards that drivers need to be prepared for. While roads are not typically as hazardous as they are during Winter conditions, here are some thoughts and tips to keep in mind for safe Spring driving:



- **Spring Break** – over the next few weeks, traffic headed to traditional Spring Break areas of the country is going to increase significantly and many of the drivers may be more than a little distracted. While “Spring Break” is an economic boom for the host areas, the increased traffic and risk of injury driving to those areas is very real. A recent University of Miami study, that examined fatal passenger vehicle crashes at 14 popular spring break destinations, found that the weekly death toll from car crashes was 9.1% higher during the spring break season compared to other weeks of the year. Even if you are not in a typical spring break destination area, you may have spring breakers traveling through your area and increasing hazardous conditions.
- **Hazardous Road Conditions** – Winter weather is tough on road surfaces – especially in areas where water collects and freezes and thaws periodically during the winter – and some roads are going to have potholes or broken and loose concrete and asphalt. This is often the case in more remote areas where pot holes may be present for months before they get repaired. When you are driving in areas where there is significant visible road damage, watch your speed and following distance and “give yourself a way out” of danger. You should drive at a speed that will allow you to see and react to hazards without reflexive swerving that could cause you to lose control of your vehicle. If you are following the vehicle in front of you too closely, and they swerve at the last minute to avoid a hazard that you can’t see, you could make contact with the hazard at a speed that could seriously damage your vehicle and possibly lead to an accident.
- **Road Construction Crews** – Road construction companies have been gearing up, and are just waiting for warmer and longer days so they can get out on the roads to repair the winter damage. Remember that speed limits are reduced in construction zones and fines are often increased to the state maximum; Don’t put yourself, your passengers, or the construction workers in danger by speeding and stay aware of your surroundings.
- **“Share the road”** – Warmer weather also means more motorcyclist, bicyclist, and pedestrians, and you need to be stay alert and share the road. Due to their slim profile, cyclists are harder to see and it can be hard to judge their speed, so be more cautious when passing or approaching from behind. Pedestrians can be distracted by their phones or just enjoying their surroundings, so expect the unexpected when you observe people walking near the roadway.



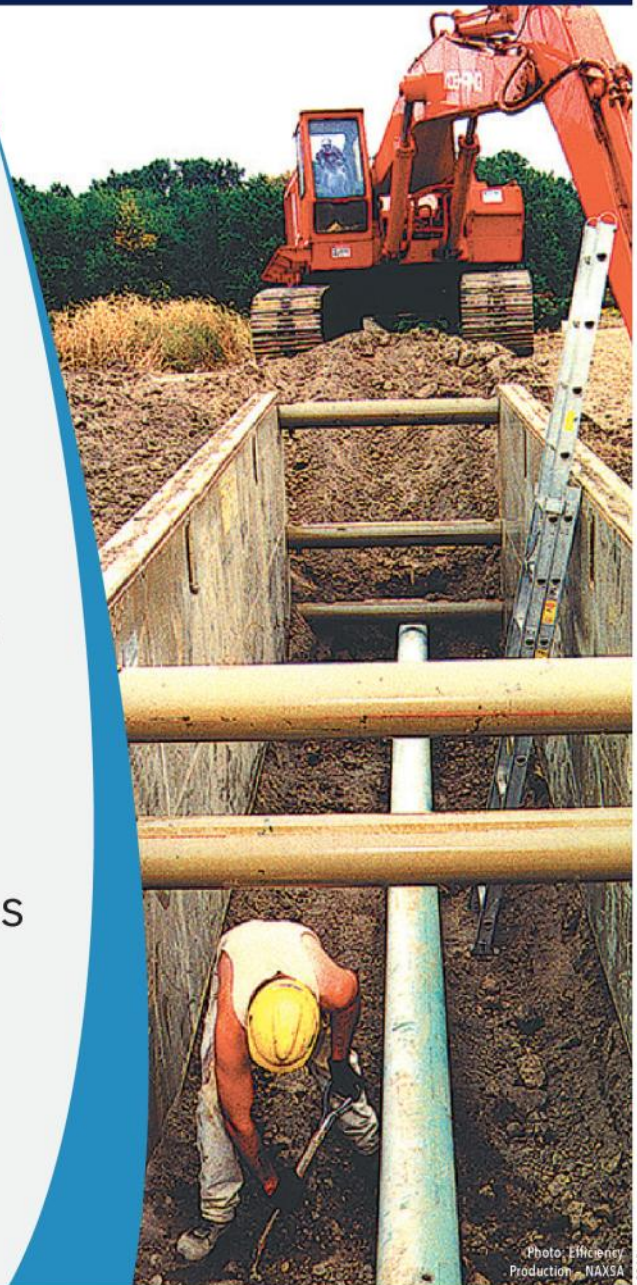
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Prevent trench collapses and save lives:

SLOPE or bench trench walls,

SHORE trench walls with supports, or

SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes



U.S. Department of Labor



Photo: Efficiency
Production, NAXSA

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**AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.**

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www.aluca.org**

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