



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JUNE 2018

Director's Comments:



Alabamians went to the polls on June 5th for the primary elections. The results of most races were not a surprise. What was a surprise to some is that the margin of victory for Governor in both the Republican and Democratic primaries was large enough to avoid a runoff. This now sets the stage for the nominees, current Republican Governor Ivey and her Democrat challenger Walt Maddox, to immediately hit the campaign trail for the November general election.

Two hotly contested races on the Republican side for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General did result in a runoff. Both races had already become very negative. The Lieutenant Governor's race may continue this way, but with the recent tragic death of the wife of current Attorney General, Steve Marshall, one can hope that the mud-slinging and attack ads will cease in this race.

AUCA has been made aware of a Sales Tax Exemption situation on sewer projects that could have a negative impact on some of our members. We will be proactively working with the Department of Revenue to develop solutions that are fair and practical.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's birth, please remember that the price of freedom is not free. May God bless all of our men and women that have given us this independence, and may we all work collectively to ensure that it continues.

Tim



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Health & Safety:

Provided by www.oshatraining.com

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Watch Out for Falling Objects When Working Inside Excavations

[Reference 1926 Subpart P]

Cave-ins are the primary concern of most people when working inside of an excavation. But you are also pretty vulnerable to being struck by a falling object when working inside an excavation, and the results can be devastating! So today we will discuss a few simple but effective steps we should take each and every time we are working inside of an excavation to help prevent injuries caused by something rolling or falling into the excavation and striking a worker below:

- Always place spoil, which is the soil and rock we are digging out of the excavation, a minimum of two feet back from the edge of the excavation (see handout). This helps prevent soil, dirt clods, and rocks from rolling off the pile and over the edge of the excavation and striking someone below. In fact, you may even want to move the spoil pile even farther than 2 feet back, where possible, as soil has a tendency to settle and creep closer to the edge over time. The same two foot rule also applies to other items, such as pipes, fittings, and tools placed along the edge of an excavation. Keeping them back from the edges and, when necessary, blocking them so they cannot roll into the excavation is critical.
- Use a rock bar or similar tool to knock partially embedded rocks off the vertical faces of excavations whenever you see them sticking out of the sides. The same goes for those chunks of soil that "scale" as they dry up and start to peel away from the sides of the excavation over time. In situations where a lot of scale has developed on the sides of an excavation, get the backhoe operator to use the bucket to lightly scrape the sides to knock off the scale.
- Never position yourself underneath any load being handled by lifting or digging equipment. If you must help guide the load as it is being raised out of or lowered down into the excavation, use a tag line so you can keep a safe distance away from the load in case it is suddenly lowered or dropped.
- When mobile equipment is operated adjacent to an excavation, or when the equipment is required to approach the edge of an excavation, and the operator does not have a clear and direct view of the edge of the excavation, utilize some sort of warning system so the equipment does not get too close to the edge and roll into the excavation or break off soil along the edge. Methods to consider include installing barricades adjacent to the edge that the equipment operator

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Health & Safety:

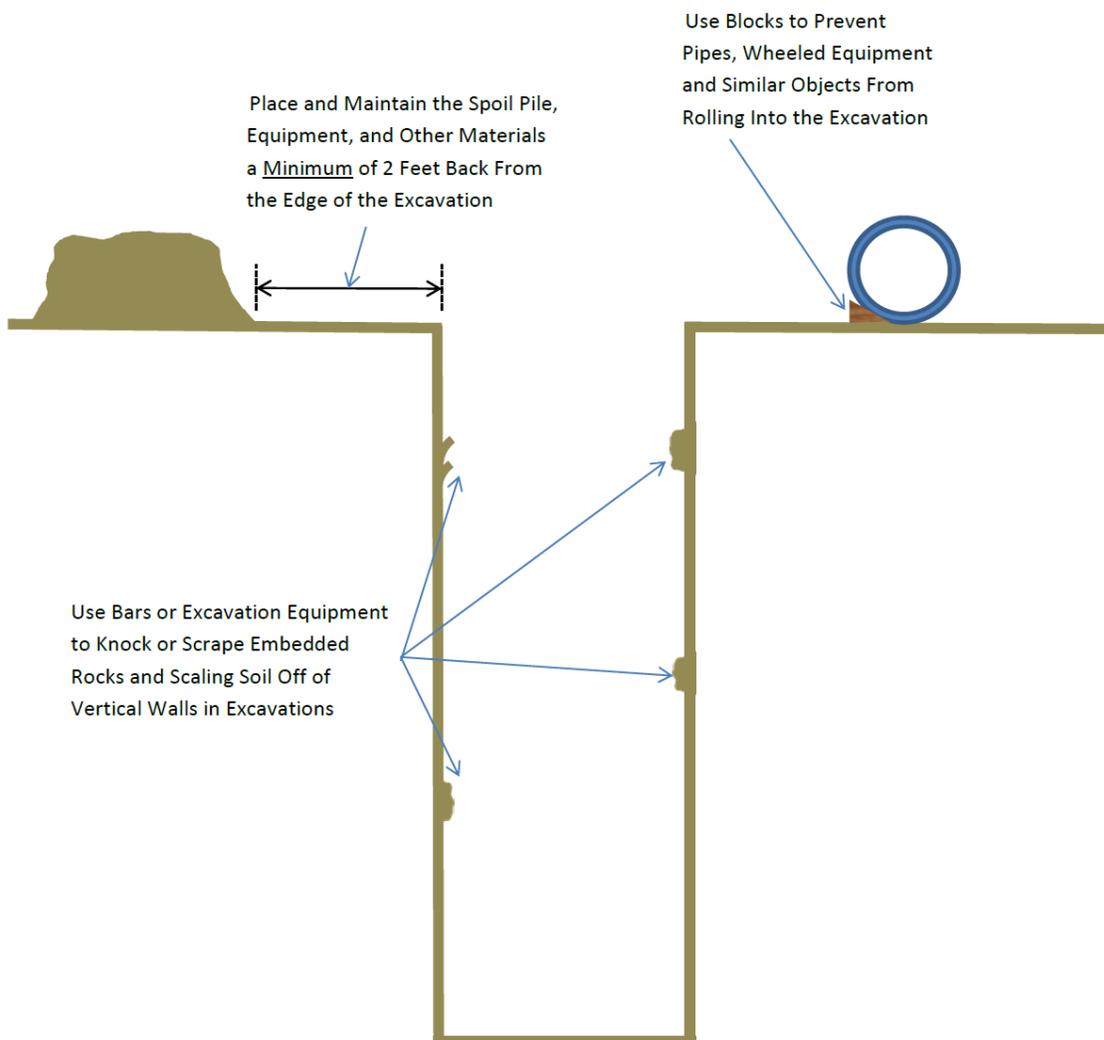
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can easily see, using a spotter to signal the equipment operator as they are approaching the edge, or installing stop logs along the edge at a safe distance so the wheels of the equipment roll up against them, signaling the equipment operator to stop. And when possible, the grade should be sloped away from the excavation.

- And just in case . . . always wear your hardhat when working inside of an excavation!

HEADS UP!

Take Steps to Avoid Being Struck By Falling Objects



Upcoming Events:

AUCA Local Lunch Meetings
Dates and Locations To Be Announced

Alabama Primary Runoff Elections:
July 17, 2018



Construction Risk Conference
August 23, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Alabama AGC Headquarters
Birmingham



September 25 – 27, 2018
Embassy Suites Montgomery

Damage Prevention Summit Session topics to include:

- Alabama 811 annual membership meeting and operations update
 - Components of a successful ticket
 - How important is white lining?
 - What the law really says
 - Benefits of being an Alabama 811 member
 - What obstacles do excavators face daily?
 - What obstacles do locators face daily?
-

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

October 18, 2018

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

Plumbers & Gas Fitters Rule Change

AUCA Executive Director Tim Ayers testified before the Alabama Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board at their May 31st Board Meeting in regards to the proposed Rule Change for the "Definition of Plumbing" that would have negatively impacted many Utility Contractors. Their Board has verbally agreed not to alter the pipe sizes as was requested by AUCA. While at some point, AUCA would like to see the elimination of any size restrictions for water and sewer pipes on Engineered Civil Drawings, we consider the Plumbers and Gas Fitters Board's decision not to increase the currently allowed sizes (as had been proposed) as a victory for most AUCA member companies.

CEFA Equipment Operator Training

The Construction Education Foundation of Alabama (CEFA) is gearing up to offer a class to the general industry for equipment operator training at their office in Birmingham. To do so, they are attempting to add 14 weeks (2 nights a week) of NCCER training to the class as optional training.

They need to put together a team of three (3) instructors to deliver the training, and are looking for people with a background in equipment operations who are retired, or working and looking for part time supplemental income (\$35 or 40 an hour) to help with the class. The commitment is expected to be no more than 3 or 4 weeks for each instructor.

For additional details, please contact CEFA President Byron McCain at (205) 956-0146.

AUCA 2019 Board of Directors Nominations:

The AUCA Nominating Committee is seeking interested AUCA members for consideration to serve on the 2019 AUCA Board of Directors.

Nomination Forms will be sent out electronically to all member companies. Please complete and return the form to the AUCA office by fax or email no later than August 31, 2018 to indicate your willingness to serve on the AUCA Board, or to nominate an individual member you know that would make a good candidate.

The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2019 Board at the September 19th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership and the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance at the October 18th General Meeting.



News & Notes:

2018 AUCA Scholarship Award Winners:

The AUCA Scholarship Committee completed the review of applications received for the inaugural AUCA Scholarship Program, and the Board of Directors approved their nominations at the June 13th Board Meeting in Montgomery.

Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500.

The winners are:

Jayde Pope

Jayde is from Headland, AL and is a Graduate Student at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Hannah Shaddix

Hannah is from Cullman, AL and is a rising Senior at Athens State University in Athens.

Both of our winners had incredible resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. We appreciate everyone that took the time to submit an application for our inaugural scholarship program, and look forward to growing the program future years.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

Infrastructure Package or Smaller Pieces?

Coming off the heels of Coalition member-led hill visits and "Infrastructure Week," Key Advocates met with House and Senate staff, Republicans and Democrats separately, of the House T&I and Senate EPW Committees to press CWCC priorities and ascertain priorities of their WRDA reauthorization efforts. Whether water infrastructure funding priorities are included in a "mega-bill" or through other smaller mechanisms remains unclear.

It is becoming clear that WRDA reauthorization is emerging as a real opportunity for progress to be made on water infrastructure priorities. Although the issue of SRF reauthorization levels (increasing from FY'18 levels) was raised by CWCC and others, absent from either version of WRDA is any meaningful discussion on that matter. So far, both sides have said that they could not "come together" on SRF reauthorization levels but pledged to continue discussions on the possibility of an Infrastructure bill.

House Meetings – WRDA Will Stay Focused on ACOE Projects

As previously reported by CWCC staff, discussions with House staff centered on the Committee's recent markup of its version of WRDA reauthorization - H.R. 8, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2018." The bill, as reported, is a "pure" Corps of Engineers bill - no extraneous matters. It was supported on a bipartisan basis in the Committee which is somewhat disappointing in that the hope was that the Democratic leadership of the Committee would have pushed/insisted/prevailed on the inclusion of other "water programs." That was not the case as evidenced by the fact that no Democrats offered any amendments along those lines. After markup, Rep staff said the Chairman is still committed to a Corps only bill and that other water issues could be the subject of an infrastructure bill. When asked what the Committee majority's position is on the Senate bill which is more than a Corps bill, staff said it was up to their Members to decide although they did point to what happened during the last reauthorization when the House held firm to a Corps only bill and the Senate caved in the end without getting any of its other issues - voluntary fee labeling, watersense, etc. Conversely, the Democratic staff said that their Members "like" many of the add-ons in the Senate bill and that conference will be "interesting."

CWCC Members Meet in DC During Infrastructure Week

Several members of the CWCC met in DC during Infrastructure Week, concurrent with the ARTBA / TCC Policy Meetings. Coalition members heard from Joe Brown, Legislative Assistant to Senator Boozman (AR) on the "SRF WIN Act". They also heard from Scott Berry, from the US Water Alliance



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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on opportunities to coordinate our efforts moving forward. Sante Esposito of Key Advocates provided the latest information on legislation and Coalition activities on the Hill. Members had the opportunity to review the material prepared for Hill visits and discussed how they would approach their advocacy this year.

Senate Meetings – WRDA Will Included Water Infrastructure / SRF WIN Provisions

Discussions with Senate staff centered around EPW’s recent version of WRDA reauthorization - S. 2809, “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,” included in the Manager’s amendment were S. 2364/H.R 4902, the “SRF WIN Act,” with the following changes- the annual authorization level was reduced from \$200M to \$100M (and corresponding loan support totals); the duration of the new program reduced from 5 to 2 fiscal years; the \$7B per state cap deleted; and language regarding the funding relationship to the SRF’s included. The first two changes were scorekeeping driven in that the higher authorization amount and additional fiscal years could not be supported by offsets. Overall, the EPW reported bill has strong Committee bipartisan support.

FY 19 Appropriations Process

Congress has begun the appropriation process, having hearings and markups. The Coalition has agreed to support, at a minimum, the FY18 levels for both SRF’s. However, with an ask of \$4B for the Clean water SRF and \$2B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, the hope is that with the increase in the budget caps for FY19, funding for the SRF’s will be above the FY18 levels.



www.cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org



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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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