



## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JUNE 2020

### Director's Comments:



July 1st marks the six-year anniversary from when I started working for AUCA back in 2014. Overall, it has been an extremely enjoyable experience. However, the last few months have certainly proven to be difficult to say the least.

As our world continues to wrestle with the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our physical and fiscal health, our country seems to be as divided as ever along political, socioeconomic, and racial lines. I like to be optimistic that we can come together for the common good. But, as I watch the continued "rewriting" of American history, and the seemingly intentional efforts of some to bring the U.S. into anarchy, I have serious concerns.

Yet, I find hope in knowing that God is in control and will see us through tough times as a nation as he's done many times before. In spite of the removal of statues of our founding fathers, and efforts to diminish the significance of honoring the American flag and other patriotic customs, we stand on a firm foundation. But, we must be willing to diligently work to preserve these freedoms and liberties.

As you celebrate the 4th of July, please remember that the price of freedom is not free. Pray for how we can come together as a nation to ensure that these sacrifices were not made in vain. May God bless America, and each and every one of our members and their families!

#### Inside This Issue:

News & Notes	2-6
Upcoming Events	7
CWCC Report	8-10
Health & Safety	11-12

*Tim*



## News & Notes:

### **2020 AUCA Scholarship Program Award Winners:**

The AUCA Board of Directors approved the nominations of seven scholarship applicants at the June 10th Board Meeting. All recipients have incredible resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500 per student.

The 2020 scholarship recipients are:

#### **Alison Gaston**

Alison is from Mountain Brook, AL and will be a Freshman at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Alison is the daughter of Maury Gaston from American Cast Iron Pipe Company.

#### **Elise Jones**

Elise is from Dothan, AL and will be a Sophomore at Wallace Community College - Dothan Campus. Elise is the daughter of Ashley Jones from Blankenship Contracting.

#### **Hogan Nichols**

Hogan is from Andalusia, AL and will be a Sophomore at Auburn University. Hogan is the son of Todd Nichols from Brunson Nichols Construction.

#### **Jennings Clayton**

Jennings is from Theodore, AL and will be a Sophomore at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Jennings is the son of Roman Clayton from C&H Construction Services.

#### **Lana Rae Cirulli**

Lana Rae is from Dothan, AL and will be a Junior at Troy University - Dothan Campus. Lana Rae is the daughter of Stephanie Patterson from Blankenship Contracting.

#### **Madison Graham**

Madison is from Grand Bay, AL and will be a Freshman at the Coastal Alabama Community College in Bay Minette. Madison is the daughter of Gary Graham from National Trench Safety.

#### **Philip Dison**

Philip is from Birmingham, AL and will be a Freshman at Jefferson State Community College - Shelby-Hoover Campus. Philip is the grandson of Mike Philips from Warrior Tractor & Equipment Company.



## News & Notes:

### Face Covering Ordinances:

Many counties and municipalities in Alabama have passed ordinances requiring the use of a face covering when in public. With COVID-19 cases continuing to surge, several other cities and counties are considering enacting similar ordinances.

Although each ordinance is unique to its own municipality or county, most require the use of face coverings within city or county limits with certain exceptions including but not limited to: *those working on ladders or at heights, persons wearing other respiratory protection, persons engaging in heavy physical exertion, persons operating heavy machinery, and persons operating in an environment where a face covering or mask hinders communications necessary for safety.*

Jefferson County is requiring all businesses to post this poster at all buildings and jobsites.



## News & Notes:



### **State Seeks Feedback from Alabamians on Broadband Internet Service:**

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is requesting information on broadband internet access and speed from Alabama residents and businesses.

Alabamians are encouraged to take the speed survey at <https://alabama.speedsurvey.org/> to help the state locate gaps in broadband service. The information gathered will be used for planning efforts to help fill those gaps.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many to work and complete school from home and further highlighted the importance of having access to high-speed internet across the state," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "Taking this speed survey will help us get the data we need to plan our efforts to help close those service gaps."

ADECA administers the Broadband Alabama program, which includes the Broadband Accessibility Fund which was created by the Alabama Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey. It was created to assist broadband providers in extending high-speed internet service for households, businesses and community anchors in unserved areas of the state or in areas lacking minimum threshold service.

Many Alabama homes and businesses are likely receiving less than the current federal definition of broadband service, which is 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and three Mbps upload speed. The information gathered from the speed survey will help pinpoint the specific areas that lack this coverage. Your address will not be made public and the information will be used solely for the state's planning efforts.

"Access to broadband is also a big economic driver for recruiting industry and jobs," Boswell said. "This is a quick and easy step you can take to show us if there is a coverage gap in your area. We encourage all Alabama residents and businesses to take the speed survey and help us continue Gov. Kay Ivey's efforts to grow Alabama's economy."



## News & Notes:

### **State Licensing Board for General Contractors June 30, 2020 License Renewal Deadlines Automatically Extended as Follows:**

Pursuant to Board action summarized below, an automatic license renewal deadline extension up to and including September 30, 2020 is granted to licensees holding a current unexpired Alabama license that expires on June 30, 2020.

Failure of those whose licensing renewal deadline of June 30, 2020 has been automatically extended, to file the required licensing renewal documentation by September 30, 2020, will result in their license lapsing on October 1, 2020.

---

### **2020 U.S. Census - Alabama Counts!**

The current response rate of Alabama households that have completed the 2020 census is 59.5 percent. This is still slightly below the U.S. response rate of 61.7 percent. The census is used to determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the United States Congress. Alabama is potentially at risk of losing a congressional seat, so it is imperative to make sure that everyone takes the time to accurately respond to the census.



---

### **AUCA 2021 Board of Directors Nominations:**

AUCA will be soliciting the membership for suggestions of people to serve on the 2021 AUCA Board of Directors. If you have someone in mind that you think would be an asset on the AUCA Board, please email us by August 31st to recommend them to the AUCA Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving yourself, please feel free to list your name as well.

Nomination Forms will be sent out electronically to all member companies. The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2021 Board at the September 9th 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 15th General Meeting in Montgomery.



*News & Notes:*



JUNE 29: DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE



JULY 9: DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR AN  
ABSENTEE BALLOT



JULY 13: DEADLINE TO RETURN OR  
POSTMARK AN ABSENTEE BALLOT



JULY 14: PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

---

## JULY 14 ELECTION REMINDERS

---

Visit [AlabamaVotes.gov](https://AlabamaVotes.gov) to register to vote, update your registration, check your polling place, or download an absentee ballot application.

Upcoming Events:

***Alabama Primary Runoff Election***

**July 14, 2020**

---

***AUCA Local Industry Lunch Meetings***

**Dates and Locations To Be Announced Due to COVID-19**

---



PRESENTED BY **CompTRUSTAGC**   
Managing Your Risk

***Construction Risk Conference***

**August 27, 2020**

*Offered in a Live In-Person format with limited seating according to CDC and state guidelines, and a virtual option for attendees to participate thru a livestream, web conferencing option.*

---



A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

September 22 - 24, 2020  
The Grand Hotel, Point Clear

---



***AUCA 2020 Fall General Meeting  
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**Thursday, October 15, 2020**

**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL**



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

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

### **COVID-19 OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS CONTINUE FOR CONGRESS**

Congress is operating under what is going to be the “new normal” for the foreseeable future. The Senate is back in session under normal rules and procedures. The House is operating with remote committee hearings, remote committee markups, and remote voting by proxy on the House Floor. The House situation is temporary only, during the pandemic. All Hill buildings remain closed except for Members, staff and credentialed press. Members’ offices are being serviced by skeleton staffs. Committee staffs are being told not to come to their offices unless their committee has a hearing, markup or bill on the Floor. For the most part, Members’ personal offices and committees are functioning via email and phone.

### **H.R. 2 - THE MOVING FORWARD ACT**

House Democrats have offered their opening bid for a massive infrastructure package by introducing a \$1.5 trillion proposal that includes billions of dollars for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address its backlog of projects. With the nearly \$500 billion transportation bill passed recently by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee folded into it, H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, is expected to see its first day of floor action June 30.

In addition to transportation, the bill also covers areas such as schools, energy, broadband internet access, health care infrastructure and the U.S. Postal Service. Republicans have dismissed the measure as a partisan wish list put together by Democrats without any concern of its cost or bipartisanship. While such opposition may not be enough to derail the bill in the Democratic-controlled House, it does not bode well for its chances in the Republican controlled Senate.

### **ANTICIPATED PRIORITIES IN CONGRESS: JUNE – AUGUST**

As per information gained by Sante Esposito’s interactions in DC, it is anticipated that throughout the month of June, legislative work will focus on enactment of two health crisis bills - a Phase 5 coronavirus bill and a small business loan adjustment bill. The House has already passed its version of a Phase 5 bill - a \$3T proposal that includes \$900B for state and local governments, \$175B for health care workers and first responders, and \$75B for testing and contact tracing. The Senate does not have a bill but has said that its bill will be much smaller in scope and cost. Employer liability protection is the number one priority for Senate Republicans in the next round; payroll tax cut and a \$600 back-to-work bonus are the priorities of the Administration. The House also passed last week a bipartisan PPP loan bill - 86 cosponsors, 57 Democrats and 29 Republicans - that allows a small business to spend its loan proceeds over 24 months instead of 8 weeks and reduces the limit on



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 8)*

loan payroll expenses from 75% to 60%. The Senate also has a bipartisan PPP bill awaiting Floor consideration - it allows 16 weeks to spend loan funds versus 8 weeks and extends the deadline to apply for loans from June 30 to the end of the year. In June, House committees will meet to hold hearings and to mark up and report other legislation.

In July, their goal will be to prepare must-pass legislation for consideration on the Floor in late June and going through July, including a 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA); an infrastructure package that includes reauthorization of expiring surface transportation provisions; a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); legislation to strengthen and expand the Affordable Care Act as more Americans have come to rely on it during this pandemic; and appropriation bills for Fiscal Year 2021; among others. Throughout July the House will meet to consider on the Floor legislation reported by committees. Longer work days are expected in late July in order to accommodate votes on appropriation bills, NDAA, an infrastructure bill, ACA legislation, and WRDA.

In August, if the House is able to complete its work on these items by the end of July, no changes will be made to the schedule, barring, of course, any additional measures that need to be taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **MARKUPS FOR MAJOR WATER FUNDING BILLS – HIGHLIGHTS**

On May 6, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported two water bills - the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 (AWIA) and the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020. The two bills are intended to form the Senate 2020 WRDA bill. There are two bills because of the split jurisdiction in the House - AWIA is a Corps of Engineers/clean water bill which is under the jurisdiction of the House T&I Committee; the Drinking Water bill falls under the jurisdiction of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Highlights include:

- \$25M for FY 2022-2024 for the Alternative Water Source Grants Program - the DeFazio bill authorizes \$75M for each of 5 fiscal years;
- \$2B in FY 2022, \$2.5B in FY 2023 and \$3B in FY 2024 for the Clean Water SRF (subject to score-keeping and offsets if necessary) - the DeFazio bill authorizes \$40B over 5 fiscal years;
- Reauthorization and expansion of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resiliency Program (\$10M for FY 2022-2024 of the Drinking Water bill), and the creation of a companion \$15M for FY2022-2024 program for clean water systems;



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 9)*

- \$250M for FY 2021-2022 for reauthorization of the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grant Program - the DeFazio bill authorizes \$225M for each of five fiscal years;
- \$50M for WIFIA for FY 2022-2024;
- No authorizations for the Safe Drinking Water SRF as that was re-authorized and increased last Congress;
- No funds for the Title XVI WIIN grant program as that falls under the jurisdiction of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee;

In the House, per Navis Bermudez, T&I Water Resources Subcommittee Majority staff, a draft of the next WRDA bill is expected by the end of the month. Not clear whether it will be a Corps of Engineers only bill or, like the Senate bill, include clean water issues. Because the Senate bill includes non-Corps of Engineers issues, Bermudez said that clean water matters will be a conference issue.

Current law expires Sept. 30 of this year. Goal is to re-authorize the program this year to keep it on a two-year cycle. The focus is on the Corps of Engineers – projects and process – although in the past WRDA has been the vehicle for inclusion of other “water” issues of interest.



[cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org](http://cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org)

## COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

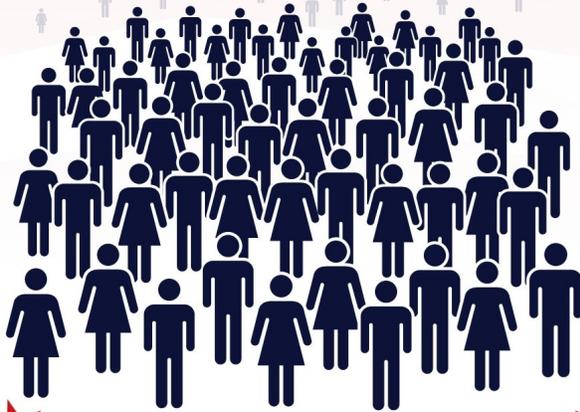
- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and take off protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#) or that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit [www.osha.gov/coronavirus](http://www.osha.gov/coronavirus) or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

*OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to  
worker safety and health issues and solutions.*

# Fireworks Injuries

**243** people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.



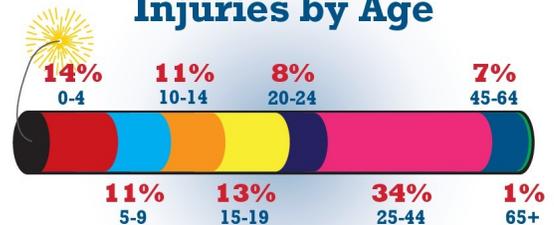
## Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips – [www.cpsc.gov/fireworks](http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)

## Injuries by Fireworks Type\*



## Injuries by Age



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2019 Fireworks Annual Report  
\*ED treated injuries during the Special Study period June 21 - July 21, 2019



NSN 15-06/2020

Alabama Utility Contractors Association  
P.O. Box 383185  
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185  
Phone: 205-582-9436  
Fax: 205-582-9155  
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

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

**We're on the Web !  
www.aluca.org**

**Please print out this newsletter to share with  
others in your company. And, if you are  
receiving this for the company owner,  
please print out a copy for him/her.**

**Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your  
Training Needs**

**Contact the Association Office for more information**

**facebook**



@AlabamaUCA

**LinkedIn**

