



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JULY 2016

Director's Comments:



OSHA Penalty Adjustments Take Effect August 2016

In November 2015, Congress enacted legislation requiring federal agencies to adjust their civil penalties to account for inflation. As a result, the Department of Labor is adjusting penalties for its agencies, including OSHA.

OSHA's maximum penalties, which were last adjusted in 1990, will increase by 78%. Going forward, the agency will continue to adjust its penalties for inflation each year based on the Consumer Price Index.

The new penalties will take effect after August 1, 2016. Any citations issued by OSHA after that date will be subject to the new penalties if the related violations occurred after November 2, 2015.

Type of Violation	Current Maximum Penalty	New Maximum Penalty
Serious Other-Than-Serious Posting Requirements	\$7,000 per violation	\$12,471 per violation
Failure to Abate	\$7,000 per day beyond the abatement date	\$12,471 per day beyond the abatement date
Willful or Repeated	\$70,000 per violation	\$124,709 per violation

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
News & Notes	4-5
Member Spotlight	6-7
Legislative News	8
Health & Safety	9-10

Additionally, as has been discussed at our recent local meetings, OSHA has also tightened their standards in many areas, thereby making companies potentially more vulnerable to receiving a citation.

AUCA is blessed to have a number of member companies that offer Safety Training Courses, either directly, or through "Open Classes" facilitated by AUCA. Please be aware of the changes, and make sure that your company is making every effort to remain in compliance.

Tim

Upcoming AUCA Events:

AUCA Quarterly Lunch Meetings

August 18, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. – Huntsville Area Meeting

August 24, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. – Tuscaloosa Area Meeting

August 25, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. – Birmingham Area Meeting

September 14, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. – Mobile Area Meeting

All 3rd Quarter Meetings will be sponsored by Knapheide Truck Equipment

KNAPHEIDE®
SINCE 1848

October 13, 2016

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

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



Upcoming Events:

ACPA Regional Installation Classes

AUCA in collaboration with the American Concrete Pipe Association will be hosting a series of regional installation classes around the state. Registration information and specific details for each class will be sent out soon.



Thursday, September 8th – Dothan

Friday, September 9th – Montgomery

Thursday, September 22nd – Tuscaloosa

Friday, September 23rd – Birmingham

Dates for Huntsville & Mobile Classes To Be Announced



October 4-6, 2016

Damage Prevention Summit Montgomery, AL

Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) in conjunction with Alabama 811 will hold the 3rd Annual Damage Prevention Summit at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on October 4-6, 2016. This event is for stakeholders from all aspects of the damage prevention industry.

Additional information about the Summit and registration information can be found at:

www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com



News & Notes:

AUCA 2016/2017 Membership Directory

AUCA will be publishing our 2016/2017 Membership Directory very soon. The Membership Directory will be a spiral bound book mailed out to every AUCA member company, and will also be available in a downloadable digital format that will be linked on the AUCA website.

We need the help of all our members to ensure the success of the Directory. Members companies will be listed alphabetically, as well as by the general classification of their products and services as a cross-reference. If you have not already done so, please take the time to complete the corresponding forms that were sent out and return them so that we can accurately include your company in the Directory.

We also have several advertising opportunities within the Directory to showcase your company. We hope that you will consider placing an ad in the Directory to help make it a more valuable resource to our members.

Below is a list of the Membership Directory advertising opportunities:

Back Outside Cover - Full Color - *SOLD*

Front Inside Cover - Full Color - *SOLD*

Back Inside Cover - Full Color - *SOLD*

Tab Pages - Full Color - *SOLD*

Full Page (5" x 8") - Black & White

Half Page (5" x 3.5") - Black & White

Please contact the AUCA office ASAP if your company would like to purchase a Directory Advertisement

All insertion orders and advertisement artwork must be received by no later than August 15, 2016



News & Notes:

AUCA 2017 Board of Directors:

The AUCA Nominating Committee is seeking interested AUCA members for consideration to serve on the 2017 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, 2016 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 2017 Board at the September 7th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership 30 days prior to the October 13th General Meeting, where the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance.

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle:

Tickets will be mailed out to AUCA member companies beginning in early September for the annual AUCA PAC Raffle. Once again this year we will be raffling two great prizes - a Shotgun and YETI Cooler. Tickets will be \$10 each, and will allow two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 13th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win either prize.

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.

Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:

The most recent Commission meeting was held in Montgomery on July 14th and focused primarily on the establishment of an effective enforcement program. The next meeting will be held on August 19th and will continue this discussion, and also cover the topic of mandatory membership.

As a reminder, one of the primary goals of the Commission is to require mandatory participation for a Single One-Call Notification System to serve the entire state of Alabama. Without full participation, the current Alabama 811 system is not truly a "One-Call" program, and places Contractors in danger when working in unfamiliar areas where all underground utilities may not have been located.

This is a golden opportunity to help improve safety for our industry. If you have any feedback on this topic, or would like to attend the next meeting, please contact the AUCA office.





AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Vector Manufacturing



VACTOR[®]
 Subsidiary of Federal Signal Corporation

8584 Borden Avenue
 Leeds, AL 35094
 Phone: 800-822-8785
 Contact: Kevin Fulkerson
kfulkerson@vector.com

For more than 100 years, **Vector Manufacturing** has provided customers around the world with a wide range of material handling equipment. Today, Vector is a leading provider of vacuum excavation equipment used by contractors and municipalities across the country for non-destructive digging in a wide range of applications, and an industry leader in sewer and catch basin cleaners and industrial vacuum loaders featuring innovative technology and custom configurable designs. With one of the largest and most developed distributor networks in the industry, Vector has more than 50 North American distributors in more than 100 locations to serve the utility, contractor and municipal markets, as well as 12 factory direct locations through FS Solutions for industrial customers.

The safety, productivity and design of Vector’s vacuum excavation equipment have all changed greatly over the years. There are many new features designed to make the equipment more efficient, safer and easier to use.



New Vector HXX ParaDIGm truck designed for utility market

Vector recently introduced the Vector HXX ParaDIGm[®] vacuum excavator for utility, municipal and contractor customers involved in the installation, maintenance and repair of underground water, sewer, gas, electric and telecommunications lines. This compact, multi-use truck can dig holes with water or air; vacuum, contain and dispose of drill mud; power pneumatic, hydraulic or electrical tools; and provide transport and storage of replacement parts, equipment and tools.

“Utility professionals have to be problem solvers each and every day, because they don’t know what they might run into when they arrive on the job,” said Ben Schmitt, product manager, Vector Manufacturing. “They have to be prepared for anything, which is why they bring additional replacement parts, repair tools and equipment with them. With the ParaDIGm, they have a powerful vacuum excavator that can also store, haul and power all the tools and equipment they may need on the job.”

Quick setup

The ParaDIGm decreases the time associated with setup and tear down between excavated holes, significantly increasing productivity. The trademarked “Park-n-Dig”[™] design minimizes the time between arriving on the job site and excavation, including the ability to dig up to six feet in depth without additional pipe and hose.

(Continued on page 7)



AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Vector Manufacturing (*Continued*)

Increased versatility

With the ability to use air or hydro excavation as the digging method, the ParaDIGm is a versatile vacuum excavator that can be used in a variety of applications.

The air compressor, which is standard on the ParaDIGm, is able to power utility tools such as jackhammers and tampers that may be used on the job. The truck features substantial storage space for these tools, including a long-handle tool box. The truck can also tow up to 20,000 lbs.



Increased payload hauling capabilities

With a maximum payload of more than 6,000 lbs of spoils, no other vacuum excavator in this size range can match the ParaDIGm's payload hauling capability.

"Weight enforcement is an important issue within the vacuum excavation industry, as overweight fines can be significant," Schmitt said. "The ParaDIGm's payload is nearly three times the payload of larger sized vacuum excavators."

Single engine design

The ParaDIGm features a powerful, single-engine, PTO-driven design that drives all vacuum, air and water systems.

"Unlike other vacuum excavators this size that require two engines – one to power the truck chassis and one to generate vacuum and excavating power – the ParaDIGm delivers superior performance with a single engine," Schmitt said. "This saves on fuel, parts, time and money spent on additional engine maintenance. It also decreases job setup time and increases productivity."

Non-CDL chassis

The ParaDIGm is available on a Class 6 (non-CDL, state dependent) chassis, which is helpful for vacuum excavator operators who don't have a commercial driver's license. The ParaDIGm is also available in a Class 7 chassis (CDL required) for customers looking for increased payload capacity. The compact, low-profile design and truck maneuverability are well-suited for tight, urban job sites.

Service and support

The ParaDIGm vacuum excavator is supported by Vector's extensive dealer network of more than 50 dealers with service centers worldwide, as well as 12 factory direct locations through [FS Solutions](#). Vector's dealers are staffed with factory-trained, highly-experienced service technicians and stocked with the necessary parts to assist customers quickly and efficiently.

Alabama Legislative News:

Governor Bentley Calls for a Special Session

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley has announced that he will call a "Special Session" to consider a proposal for a lottery to fund state services. Bentley said the state can't afford to pay for basic services and has borrowed money and used one-time money to fill the gaps for decades.

The governor said a lottery would raise approximately \$225 million a year, and he proposes applying the revenue to services for children, the mentally ill, law enforcement and "those in the most need."

"The time has come for us to find a permanent solution," Bentley said. "This solution will provide funding that we can count on for year after year without ever having to raise your taxes or put one more band-aid on our state's money problems."

Bentley said his plan would be to only allow a lottery and no other forms of gambling, and that he would propose a statewide lottery commission to oversee the lottery.

For a lottery proposal to be on the ballot for the November 8th general election, the Legislature would have to approve it no later than August 24th.

Former House Speaker Sentenced to Prison

Former Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard has been sentenced to prison after his conviction last month on 12 felony violations of the state ethics law. Hubbard was sentenced on July 8th to a total of four years in prison, eight years on probation, and ordered to pay a \$210,000 fine.

Attorney General Luther Strange, issued a statement saying that the sentence of Hubbard to prison time was a turning point for the state. "No longer can elected officials expect to disregard our laws and not pay a penalty," Strange said.

State Auditor Files Suit to Void STAARS Contract

The much maligned State of Alabama Accounting and Resource System (STAARS) has run into a new hurdle, as State Auditor Jim Zeigler has filed a lawsuit seeking to void a state contract for the financial software system, alleging it was not done in compliance with the competitive bid law.

STAARS has run into problems during its implementation, but a spokeswoman for Governor Bentley recently issued a statement indicating that problems with paying vendors on time and other issues that surfaced in adjusting to the new software last fall have been fixed.

The lawsuit is not about the performance of the system, but the way it was sold to the state.



Health & Safety:

Avoiding Heat Stress

The sun and warm weather of summer can also bring special hazards for those working outdoors. The combination of heat, humidity and physical labor can lead to fatalities. The two most serious forms of heat-related illnesses are heat exhaustion (primarily from dehydration) and heat stroke, which could be fatal. Signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke need immediate attention. Recognizing those warning signs and taking quick action can make a difference in preventing a fatality.

The following are guidelines all employees should follow during the warm weather months:

1. Understand what heat stress is and be able to recognize the symptoms. It is a signal that says the body is having difficulty maintaining its narrow temperature range. The heart pumps faster, blood is diverted from internal organs to the skin, breathing rate increases, sweating increases, all in an attempt to transfer more heat to the outside air and cool the skin by evaporation of sweat. If the body can't keep up then the person suffers effects ranging from heat cramps to heat exhaustion, and finally to heat stroke.

Symptoms of **Heat Exhaustion** include headaches, dizziness, lightheadness or fainting; weakness and moist skin; mood changes such as irritability or confusion; upset stomach or vomiting.

Symptoms of **Heat Stroke** include dry, hot skin with no sweating; mental confusion or loss of consciousness; seizures or convulsions. Seek professional assistance immediately.

2. Dry clothes and skin do not mean that you are not sweating. In dry climates, you might not feel wet or sticky, but you are still sweating. On a very warm day, you can lose as much as two liters of fluid.

3. Beat the Heat. Help Prevent the ill effects of heat stress by:

- Drinking water frequently and moderately (about eight ounces every 15 minutes.)
- If possible, avoid direct sunlight or other heat sources.
- Plan your day to tackle more strenuous jobs during the cooler morning hours.
- Utilizing the ventilation or fans in enclosed areas.
- Rest frequently in cool, shaded areas.
- Avoid alcoholic or caffeinated beverages and eat lightly.
- Remembering that it takes about one to two weeks for the body to adjust to the heat; this adaptation to heat is quickly lost — so your body will need time to adjust after a vacation or extended absence.
- Wearing lightweight, light-colored and loose fitting clothes.

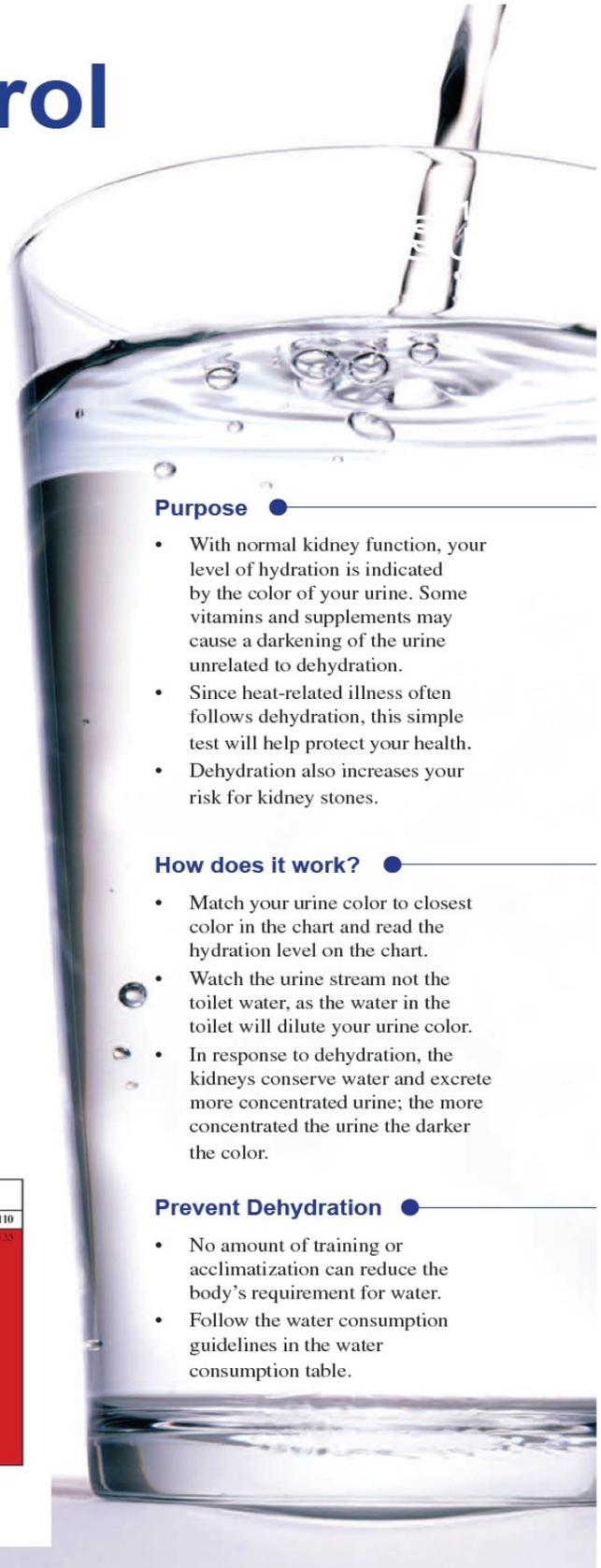
4. Be prepared to act. In the event you recognize these symptoms in yourself or a co-worker, immediately notify your supervisor and contact emergency professionals.



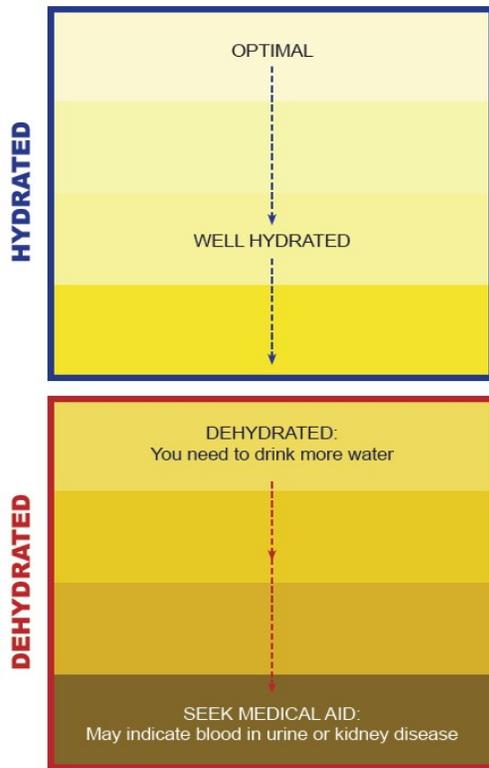
Health & Safety:

U-R-I-N-E Control

Are you hydrated?
Take the Urine **Color** Test



● Urine Color Chart*



*This color chart is not for clinical use.

● Heat Index Table

Relative Humidity (%)	Heat Index Temperatures (°F)															
	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	135
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	83	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	130	137				
65	83	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	126	130					
70	84	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	85	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	85	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	125	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution
 ■ Extreme Caution
 ■ Danger
 ■ Extreme Danger

● Purpose

- With normal kidney function, your level of hydration is indicated by the color of your urine. Some vitamins and supplements may cause a darkening of the urine unrelated to dehydration.
- Since heat-related illness often follows dehydration, this simple test will help protect your health.
- Dehydration also increases your risk for kidney stones.

● How does it work?

- Match your urine color to closest color in the chart and read the hydration level on the chart.
- Watch the urine stream not the toilet water, as the water in the toilet will dilute your urine color.
- In response to dehydration, the kidneys conserve water and excrete more concentrated urine; the more concentrated the urine the darker the color.

● Prevent Dehydration

- No amount of training or acclimatization can reduce the body's requirement for water.
- Follow the water consumption guidelines in the water consumption table.

Alabama Utility Contractors Association
159 Highland Park Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242
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

