

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEPTEMBER 2022**



Director's Comments:

Opportunities continue to abound for our industry. Just this month, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) announced that it has approved sending \$348 million in federal grants and loans to repair and upgrade crumbling, malfunctioning and overwhelmed water and sewer systems in Alabama.

Alabama is expecting approximately \$1 billion in federal funding to address water issues over the next five years from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), both signed into law by President Joe Biden last year. Alabama is also contributing \$111 million in grants and loans through the State Revolving Fund to water and sewer infrastructure projects.

ADEM, which is handling the applications and administering the funds, says it has already received \$3.2 billion in funding requests from water utilities and municipalities across the state. The billions of dollars in requests received total several times the amount of money available. Projects not able to be funded this year will be considered for funding in future years.

ADEM has created a website, alabamawaterprojects.com, to track the applications and see brief descriptions of projects that have been approved.

On October 13th, AUCA will hold our Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot at Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club in Montgomery. We are expecting another great turnout for what is always our largest event. At the meeting we will also vote on our Officers and Board of Directors to lead AUCA into 2023. If you plan to attend, and have not already sent in your registration form, please do so immediately in order to guarantee your space.

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Tim

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Currently Registered Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 7th)

Gold Sponsors (to Date):



ALCRETE
INDUSTRIES



CLEARY



KNAPHEIDE
SINCE 1848

 Southern Linc



AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Silver Sponsors (to Date):



AN ARTERA COMPANY



Bronze Sponsor (to Date):





AUCA 2022 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club

4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110

Morning Sporting Clay Shoot - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

General Meeting & Steak Lunch - 11:00 a.m.

Door Prizes & Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon Sporting Clay Shoot - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start



General Meeting & Steak Lunch

Guest Speaker: SEC Football Official - Marc Curles

(Lunch Included with Clay Shoot Registration or Sponsorship)

Come network with your peers, win great door prizes, and enjoy a delicious steak lunch while listening to our special guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2023 AUCA Officers and Board of Directors, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

(Participants must provide their own Gun and Shells)

Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.

Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

This year we are again raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

Prize #1: \$1,000 Cash

Prize #2: \$500 Cash

Tickets are \$10 each and allow two (2) chances to win.

(You do not have to be present to win)

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 UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER 13, 2022 - 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 October 7, 2022

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- GOLD TEAM SPONSOR - \$1,000 **Includes:** 4-man team, cart, lunch, company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website, event signage, promotional materials, & four (4) station sponsorship
- SILVER TEAM SPONSOR - \$750 **Includes:** 4-man team, cart, lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, & one (1) station sponsorship
- 4-PERSON TEAM - \$600 **Includes:** 4-man team, cart, lunch
- BRONZE EVENT SPONSOR - \$250 **Includes:** Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, one (1) station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

TEAM MEMBERS:

1.) _____ 3.) _____
2.) _____ 4.) _____

MORNING SHOOT: _____ AFTERNOON SHOOT: _____

CART NEEDED: YES _____ NO _____

4-person golf carts provided for all teams (you may also bring your own cart/ATV)

You must provide your own shells (Factory shells only - #7-1/2 or higher shot load)

Safety rules must be followed; signed waiver required; ear plugs and eye protection required

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM PRIZES

1st Place Team: \$400 + Trophies 2nd Place Team: \$300 + Trophies 3rd Place Team: \$200 + Trophies

GENERAL MEETING LUNCH (INCLUDED w/ TEAM REGISTRATION or SPONSORSHIP)

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Non-Shooter x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT REQUESTED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, Alabama 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:

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION PROPOSED 2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 13, 2022

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: DOUG BLANKENSHIP, BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: JAY HOLCOMB, LAMBERT, INC.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: RONNIE GOLDEN, GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

SECRETARY/TREASURER: ROBBIE BUTLER, CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.

BOARD MEMBERS

RANDY BISHOP, CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, AFL

BILL CARTER, BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC

TIM GILLIAM, JOHN PLOTT COMPANY (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)

SHAUN GONZALES, WEAVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.

GAVIN JONES, BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.

LARRY LOGSDON, WALLACE, JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC

MARK MAYFIELD, MILLER PIPELINE, LLC

RYAN McCLENDON, MARSH McLENNAN AGENCY

BILL McGOUGH, W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.

RICHARD MURPHREE, EMPIRE PIPE & SUPPLY

AARON SCHMIDT, SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

CHARLES SMITH, VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY

CHAD TUBBS, FERGUSON WATERWORKS

STEVE WALKER, JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.



News & Notes:

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle:

Tickets have been distributed to AUCA member companies for the annual AUCA PAC Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle will be directed to the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued legislative efforts for improved infrastructure funding, as well as fair and consistent governmental policies that impact business, taxes, and environmental regulations.

This year we are once again raffling two great prizes that anyone can use - CASH:

- \$1,000 Cash - Prize #1
- \$500 Cash - Prize #2

Tickets are \$10 each, and will allow the purchaser 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.

We hope that you will consider purchasing these tickets for yourself, or provide the opportunity to your employees or co-workers. If you would like to purchase any additional tickets, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Alabama Damage Prevention Summit:

The 2022 Alabama Damage Prevention Summit was held on September 13—15th at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach. The event offered many networking and educational opportunities for all utility industry stakeholders.



www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com

News & Notes:

Governor Ivey Awards \$82.45 Million for Improved Access to Broadband through Alabama Middle-Mile Network

Governor Kay Ivey has awarded an \$82.45 million grant to help make statewide broadband service availability a more attainable goal throughout Alabama. The Alabama Middle-Mile Network project involves filling in gaps in broadband expansion and results in more cost-effective and feasible ways to provide broadband service availability to residents in rural areas.

The Fiber Utility Network will create a middle-mile network that will connect almost 3,000 miles of existing and new fiber infrastructure within a three-year period. When complete, the network will provide improved access to unserved areas for the last-mile projects that provide actual broadband availability to homes, businesses and schools. Once connected, residents will have the ability to become a customer of the last-mile broadband providers.

Funds for the project are being provided through the American Rescue Plan Act. The use of those funds was approved earlier this year by the Alabama Legislature. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the award through its Alabama Digital Expansion Division. The division was created by the Legislature and Governor Ivey to specifically target methods and means to supply broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Alabama.

Wallace Jones to Retire from Public Service Commission:

Wallace Jones, Director of the Gas Pipeline Safety Division of the Alabama Public Service Commission will retire at the end of September.

Wallace has been an instrumental figure in underground utility damage prevention efforts for many years and serves on the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA).

His presence will be sorely missed by those in our industry, but he says he's now looking forward to spending more time relaxing on his boat at Lake Martin.

OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program:

On September 15th, OSHA issued a press release regarding changes to their Severe Violator Enforcement Program. "The new criteria include violations of all hazards and OSHA standards and will continue to focus on repeat offenders in all industries. Previously, an employer could be in the program for failing to meet a limited number of standards. The changes will broaden the program's scope with the possibility that additional industries will fall within its parameters."

[Click here](#) for a link to the full press release and details.



Upcoming Meetings & Events:



AUCA 2022 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

**Thursday, October 13, 2022
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL**



Alabama Utility Management & Technology Workshop Presented By: The American Water Works Association and Alabama's Water Environment Association

**Monday, October 31, 2022 & Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL**

[**Click Here for Registration & Event Information**](#)

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA 2023 Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

**Thursday, April 20, 2023
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings

Dates and Locations To Be Announced



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

September 2022 Insights

NOTE: Congress is in recess, returning after Labor Day.

"Inflation Reduction Act of 2022" (IRA)

The Senate passed the bill on August 7, the House on August 12 and the President signed it into law on August 16. Highlights include:

- \$369B in energy and climate change programs, with the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2030;
- Medicare would negotiate the prices of certain medications and cap out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 for those enrolled in Medicare drug plans. The Health and Human Services Secretary would negotiate the prices of 10 drugs in 2026, and another 15 drugs in 2027 and again in 2028. The number would rise to 20 drugs a year for 2029 and beyond;
- It would also redesign Medicare's Part D drug plans so that seniors and people with disabilities wouldn't pay more than \$2,000 a year for medication bought at the pharmacy;
- The deal would require drug companies to pay rebates if they increase their prices in the Medicare and private-insurance markets faster than inflation;
- The agreement would also extend expiring enhanced subsidies for Affordable Care Act coverage for three years
- Tax credits for electric vehicles are in. Electric Vehicle tax credits will continue at their current levels, up to \$4,000 for a used electric vehicle and \$7,500 for a new EV. However, there will be a lower income threshold for people who can use the tax credits.

To pay for the agreement, the bill would impose a 15% minimum tax on corporations, which would raise \$313 billion over a decade. The current deal also closes the carried interest loophole, which allows investment managers to treat their compensation as capital gains and pay a 20% long-term capital gains tax rate instead of income tax rates of up to 37%. The package also calls for providing more funding to the IRS for tax enforcement. Families making less than \$400,000 per year would not be affected and there would be no new taxes on small businesses.

"Build Back Better" Bill: Round Two?

What the enactment of the IRA means for a second round of BBB non-controversial items sometime this year is unclear. For the Coalition that means at least the issues of interest in both the House-passed bill and the Senate Environment and Public Works draft.

Included in the House-passed bill are the following -

- \$30B for Safe Drinking Water SRF lead service line replacement projects;

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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- \$100M for state public water systems;
- \$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water;
- \$100M for large scale water recycling projects;
- \$1.15B for emergency drought relief;
- \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants;
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants.
- \$4B for reduction of carbon in the surface transportation sector;
- \$4B for affordable and safe transportation access;
- \$6B for local surface transportation projects; and,
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants.

No funding for the Clean Water SRF is included in the House BBB. It does include new taxes.

Unofficially last December the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released its BBB title which includes \$9B for SDWSRF-funded lead remediation projects, \$225M for rural and low-income water assistance grants, \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants, and \$500M for sewer overflow and storm water reuse municipal grant.

FY23 Appropriations

On July 20, the House passed a six bill appropriations bill that included the Interior, Energy, and Transportation Appropriations bills.

The House Interior Appropriations Bill provides \$1.752B for the Clean Water SRF, \$1.126B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF and \$72M for WIFIA.

On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its FY23 Interior Appropriations Bill that provides \$1.689B for the Clean Water SRF, \$1.176B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF and \$66.9M for WIFIA.

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill includes \$63.7M for Title XVI (no breakdown between the traditional Title XVI program and WIIN grants) and \$75M for WaterSMART grants.

On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its FY23 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that includes \$35M for the traditional Title XVI program, \$20M for WIIN grants and \$55M for Water SMART grants.

The House Transportation Appropriations Bill includes:

- \$775M for national infrastructure investments (RAISE/TIGER/BUILD), including \$30M for grants to assist areas of persistent poverty and \$100M for the Thriving Communities program;
- Research and technology funding to create more equitable access to transportation systems,



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 11)

- combat climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- \$18.7B for the FAA, including \$1.6B for aviation safety and \$273M for airport improvement grants and projects;
- \$61.3B for the FHWA formula programs including \$1.8B for discretionary highway programs and projects;
- \$874M for FMCSA and \$1.2B for NHTSA to make cars, trucks and roads safer;
- \$3.8B for FRA including \$555M for the Intercity Passenger Rail grant program, \$630M for the CRISI grants program, and \$2.3B for Amtrak, including \$882M for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.5B for National Network grants;
- \$17.5B for the FTA, including \$13.6B for buses, \$3B for capital investment grants, and \$646M for transit infrastructure grants; and,
- \$987M for MARAD.

On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its FY23 Transportation Appropriations Bill that includes:

- \$1B for the RAISE grant program, \$3.2B for the Federal Highway Administration to support additional funding for PROTECT grants for resiliency projects, tribal high priority projects, bridge formula funding, and development of the Appalachian Development Highway System;
- \$2.6B for Amtrak;
- \$200M for the Federal-State Partnership for State-of-Good-Repair (SOGR) to fund the replacement, rehabilitation, or repair of major infrastructure assets providing intercity passenger rail service;
- \$535M for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) program;
- \$2.51B for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants program;
- \$527M for Transit Infrastructure Grants to advance investments into Bus and Buses Facilities, the Low or No Emissions Vehicle Program, Areas of Persistent Poverty, ferry programs, and research to accelerate zero emission technology; and
- \$234M for the Port Infrastructure Development program.

All the above appropriated amounts are in addition to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding amounts. Given where we are in the legislative cycle with the August recess and September out-of-session days, a continuing resolution seems very likely.

"Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" (BIF)

The \$1.2T law (P.L. 117-58) includes the following (it does not include any new taxes) –

- For FY22-26 \$12.838B for the Clean Water State SRF, starting at \$2.127B in FY22 and going up to \$2.828B in FY26;
- \$35.713B over five years for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, starting at \$6.702B in FY22 and going up to \$7.403B in FY26;



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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- No appropriations are included for the Alternative Water Source Projects program (an authorization of \$125M over 5 fiscal years is included);
- \$8.3B for the USBR for FY22-26 with an annual cap of \$1.66B per year including a number of programs under USBR's jurisdiction with specific appropriated amounts but without specifying annual funding amounts for each program;
- For water recycling, the bill appropriates \$1B over 5 FY's, broken down to \$550M for Title XVI and WIIN Act grants and \$450M for "large scale" projects (those with project costs >\$500M);
- \$400M over 5 FY's for WaterSMART;
- \$1.2B for water storage and groundwater;
- \$25M for desalination; and,
- S. 914, as passed by the Senate, which authorizes \$14.65B over five fiscal years for the Clean Water SRF and the Safe Drinking Water SRF, and \$125M for the AWSP and which includes the Feinstein-Padilla amendment which limits the prohibition against applying for Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) grants to USBR projects that received construction funds; and,

Other core infrastructure -

- \$65B for Broadband
- \$17B for Ports
- \$25B for Airports
- \$7.5B for Zero and Low-Emission Buses and Ferries
- \$7.5B for Plug-In Electric Vehicle Chargers
- \$65B to Rebuild the Electric Grid
- \$21B for Superfund and Brownfield sites

Highway Bill (FAST Act reauthorization)

The Senate FAST Act reauthorization bill is included in the enacted BIF. It authorizes \$287B in highway spending, ninety percent of which would be distributed to the states by formula. It also authorizes \$10.8B for various programs addressing resiliency and \$2.5B for electric, hydrogen, and natural gas vehicle charging and fueling stations. It provides billions for curbing emissions, reducing congestion and truck idling. It also streamlines infrastructure permitting and sets a two-year target for environmental reviews. Lastly, the bill authorizes \$12.5M per year to fund state and regional pilot testing of user-based alternative revenue mechanisms to the gas tax.



cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org

Fleet Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency—Southeast Risk Control Services

Tips for Night Driving

Did you know that the rate of traffic deaths at night is three times greater than driving during the day? It is more difficult to see hazards ahead on the road, and often the lack of scenery can be hypnotizing, sending you into a state of dangerous drowsiness. If your job requires that you drive when it is dark, it is important to remember the challenges you may face on the road.

Tips for Staying Safe

- Turn on your headlights one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise so other drivers can see you easily.
- Make sure all of your exterior lights are working properly.
- Refrain from looking into your rearview mirror at oncoming headlights. Use the “day-night” feature to reduce the light.
- Do not look directly at oncoming headlights. Look toward the right side of the road, following the white line with your eyes.
- Dim your dashboard lights if excess street lighting is causing a glare.
- Keep your windows clean, as dirty windows can reduce visibility by up to 90 percent.
- Increase your following distance by four or five seconds to give yourself more response time.
- Slow your speed, especially in dangerous weather conditions.
- Adjust your outside mirrors so that the view is just outside of the bodywork of the vehicle.
- Avoid smoking, as the nicotine and carbon monoxide hampers night vision.
- Keep your headlights on low beams when following other vehicles.
- If you have vehicle trouble, pull off the road as far to the right as possible and set up reflector triangles near your vehicle and up to 300 feet behind it. Turn on your flashers and your dome light, and call for assistance.
- Make stops to use the restroom, stretch your legs and have a snack to reduce fatigue.
- If you get too tired while driving at night, stop and take a rest.

Watching Your Hours

The Large Truck Crash Causation Study (LTCCS) reported that 13 percent of Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers were considered to have been fatigued at the time of their crash. Many times you will be expected to respect strict schedules. However, it is crucial that you always respect the Hours of Service (HOS) set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. They are designed to protect you and other drivers on the road, and your failure to comply can result in hefty fines or losing your job.

Arriving Safely

Wherever your final destination, your safety on the road is more important than arriving on time. If you feel that you are unfit to drive for any reason—whether it is drowsiness, alcohol, or any other reason—do not get behind the wheel.

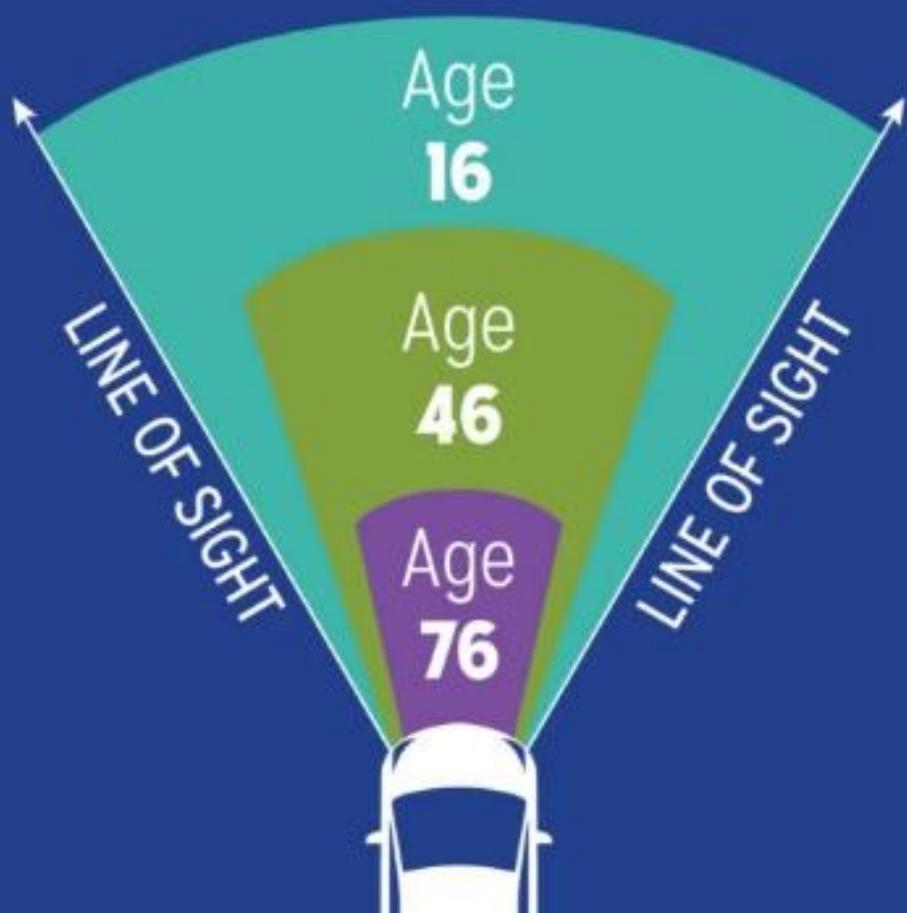


Fleet Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency—Southeast Risk Control Services

DRIVING FIELD OF VIEW

AS YOU AGE, YOU BECOME LESS
ADEPT AT SEEING SAFETY RISKS.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association

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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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