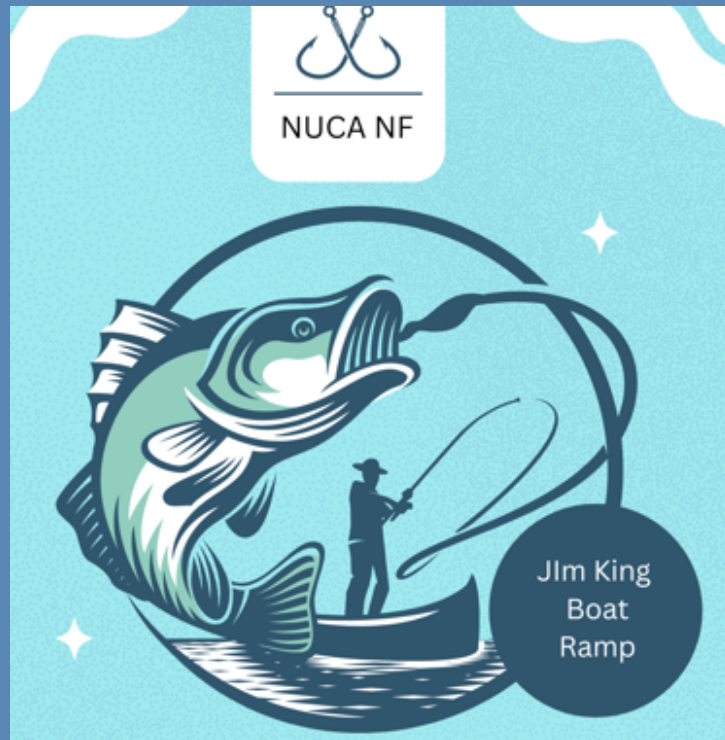


August 2026

NUCA NORTH FLORIDA, INC

THE FLOW



Upcoming Events

August 22 - NUCA NF Fishing Tournament

Sept 24-25 - NUCA FL President's Cup

Oct 8 - General Membership Meeting

Oct 21 - Young Professional Networking Event

Nov 3 - Clay Shoot

Nov 19 - Top Golf Benefit for Seamark Ranch

Nov 12-14 - NUCA FL Bass Tournament

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NUCA NF Annual Fishing Tournament

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NUCA Florida State Conference

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NUCA FL Presidents Cup

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NUCA FL Bass Tournament

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Dear NUCA Members and Friends,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful Independence Day. The spirit of America was evident throughout the week, and it was a great reminder of the freedoms we share.

Scholarship Night was awesome. Congratulations to **Riley Bryan, Drew Watson, and Avery Webb**, along with their families, on this well-deserved achievement. We wish each of them continued success as they pursue their educational and career goals. We also appreciate the informative presentation from the Tenna team. As new technology continues to shape our industry, we must stay informed and keep an eye on the innovations heading our way.

Looking ahead, we have three outstanding events planned over the next few months. From the Fishing Tournament to the Clay Shoot, there are great opportunities for friendly competition. Be sure to reach out and get your teams signed up. The Fishing Tournament will be held on **August 22** at the Jim King Boat Ramp in Jacksonville, Florida, and we look forward to seeing you there.

As opportunities arise, remain true to the values that have built your career. Abide in the day we have been given.

Thank you for your continued support of NUCA, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvaro A Rios". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alvaro A Rios

Vice President

T.G. Utility Company, Inc.

nucanf@gmail.com

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The Law and Your Business- Independent Contractor Defense
Tony Zebouni, Lindell & Zebouni, P.A.

The Employee of an electrical contractor went to a Wal-Mart store to remove an old manual door and install a new automatic door. To complete installation, it was necessary to access a metal junction box.

Per industry standard, the metal junction box had to be grounded, and it should have been safe for the employee to touch the exterior cover of the box. When the employee touched the loosened metal cover of the junction box, he was shocked by an electric jolt that caused him to fall and he was injured.²

Wal-Mart argued that the employee's claim was barred by the "independent contractor defense" because nobody from Wal-Mart told him how to access the junction box. Wal-Mart did not control the method by which the employee's work was being done."

A commercial property owner in Florida has a duty to use reasonable care in maintaining property in a reasonably safe condition and to warn of concealed dangers that the landowner knows about or should know about and 'which are unknown to the invitee and cannot be discovered by the invitee through the exercise of due care."

Generally, a property owner who employs an independent contractor to perform work on its property will not be held liable for injuries sustained by the employee of an independent contractor during the performance of that work. However, there are two exceptions to the general rule. The first exception is where the property owner actively participates in or exercises direct control over the work, i.e., "actively participates and controls the manner in which the work is performed. "The second exception applies where the property owner negligently creates or negligently approves a dangerous condition. This exception is only triggered where the property owner has actual or constructive knowledge of the dangerous condition

In this case, the second exception prevented Wal-Mart's use of the independent contractor defense to avoid its duty to warn Johnson. Wal-Mart had constructive knowledge of the dangerous junction box condition that it negligently created or negligently approved. "A premises owner has constructive knowledge of a hazard when, if he exercised reasonable care, he would have known of the hazard." Constructive knowledge may be inferred if the dangerous condition existed for such a length of time that in the exercise of ordinary care, the premises owner should have known of it and taken action to remedy it.

The Court held that a dangerous condition existed on Wal-Mart's premises for an extended period of time and that had Wal-Mart "exercised reasonable care, [it] would have known of this hazard." The dangers concealed within the junction box were not inherent to the work that Johnson was hired to perform. He was hired to install an automatic door, not repair a faulty junction box.⁶

WAL-MART STORES EAST, LP v. JOSEPH JOHNSON

NUCA News Summary – July 2026

Industry News and Advocacy

WRDA 2026 Introduced, Senate Version Includes SRF Reauthorizations

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released the bipartisan Water Resources

Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 on June 26. Strongly supported by NUCA, the bill authorizes 131

studies and 10 new construction projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

After a two-week delay, the full committee passed the legislation on July 14 and sent it to the House floor. On the same day, the Senate introduced its WRDA version, which reauthorizes key State Revolving Funds at these levels for the next five years: Drinking Water SRF at escalating levels up to \$4.5 billion by FY2030, \$100 million annually for the Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program, Clean Water SRF at \$3.5 billion per year through 2030, and WIFIA at \$65 million.

Workforce Pell Grants Launched July 1

Effective July 1, the new Workforce Pell Grants program, championed by NUCA for a decade, expands

federal Pell eligibility to high-quality, short-term construction training programs for the first time.

Enabled by the NUCA-supported 2025 “Working Families Tax Cuts Act,” students in trade school programs can now use Pell Grants for 8- to 15-week certificate programs in welding, heavy equipment operation, pipeline construction, carpentry, and other skilled trades. This program will help utility contractors address the industry’s persistent workforce shortage. Our members’ advocacy efforts over several Washington Summits helped make this law become a reality.

Earmarks Eroding State Revolving Funds for Water Infrastructure

A new Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) analysis warns that congressional earmarks are draining State Revolving Fund (SRF) resources. Titled “Revolving No More: How Earmarks Are Draining America’s Water Funds,” the report projects a \$19.4 billion net loss in water infrastructure financing over the next 20 years—equivalent to roughly 5,700 projects. Because SRFs are revolving loan programs, shifting funds to earmarked grants reduces future lending capacity and creates compounding losses for most states. NUCA and EPIC recommend funding earmarks via separate appropriations, prioritizing loans over grants, deducting them from state allotments, and conducting regular impact reviews. The report can be found at policyinnovation.org.

Association News

**Your NUCA membership delivers business benefits that will help your bottom line.
Are you or your employees taking advantage of them?**

Safety & Damage Prevention Conference: Registration Now Open, Sept. 15-18

Don't miss your chance to join the industry's top safety professionals at the NUCA Safety & Damage Prevention Conference, September 15-18, 2026, at the iconic Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Immerse yourself in three powerful days of timely discussions designed to tackle the real challenges facing utility construction today. The agenda features critical sessions on transportation accidents, risk management, mental health in the workplace, the latest OSHA updates, emergency preparedness, rethinking trench safety (presented with NUCA National Partner United Rentals), a compelling panel on drugs in the industry, and a fresh 811 update.

This year's conference shines a spotlight on the most pressing safety and damage prevention issues impacting our industry. You'll gain actionable insights, practical strategies, and fresh ideas to strengthen safety practices and reduce incidents back at your company. Connect and recharge during two dynamic networking events, including the prestigious STAR Award presentation. Whether you're looking to stay ahead of regulations, protect your team, or drive real improvement in damage prevention, this is the must-attend event of the year. Register today at [**nuca.com/sdpc**](https://nuca.com/sdpc) and secure your spot in Louisville!

NUCA Careers Website Now Open For Business

Find the skilled talent your construction business is seeking! NUCA Careers is now available to NUCA members to post online free job ads and connect with qualified professionals interested in careers in the utility construction industry. With NUCA Careers, you will reach a targeted audience, promote your company's opportunities, increase visibility for your job openings, and recruit the skilled talent you are seeking. Added bonus: Unlimited free jobs postings for active NUCA members. This is another valuable NUCA member benefit that supports our industry's workforce recruitment and retention. Go to [**nuca.com/careers**](https://nuca.com/careers) for more information.

Association News

NUCA Benefits: The expanded NUCA Advantage member benefits program

Your NUCA membership investment can deliver benefits far in excess of its cost -- but only if you ask your human resources office to explore what it offers. Start by forwarding this document to them and ask them to check out NUCA Advantage. Our online portal leads to expanded health care benefits options for your company, as well as payroll, wellness, compliance, benefits administration, 401K programs, online training, OSHA logs and a wealth of free HR benefits available only to NUCA members. Find our expanded NUCA Advantage benefits program at **www.NUCAAdvantage.com**.

Toolbox Talks: It's never been easier to promote safety to your employees

Toolbox Talks are for NUCA and industry members to use and distribute to their employees to assist them in promoting safety in the workplace. Toolbox Talks reinforce company safety rules, warn of dangerous conditions and describe safe workplace procedures. While these toolbox talks are not a substitute for training, they are designed to reinforce training and remind employees of the many hazards and safe working procedures on the jobsite. Each of these Toolbox Talks can be downloaded as a PDF, and many are available in both English and Spanish languages. Go to **NUCA.com/toolbox-talks** and browse the wealth of safety knowledge available to NUCA members.



August Safety Article: Finish Summer Strong

Stay Alert – Stay Safe

As we move through August, high temperatures and busy schedules can lead to fatigue and complacency. The best way to prevent injuries is to stay focused, follow safe work practices, and never take shortcuts. Every task deserves your full attention, no matter how routine it may seem.

Heat Safety

August temperatures remain dangerous. Protect yourself by:

- Drinking water throughout the day.
- Taking breaks in shaded or cool areas.
- Watching for signs of heat stress in yourself and your coworkers.
- Reporting any heat-related symptoms immediately.

Equipment & Jobsite Safety

Before starting work:

- Complete your pre-operation inspection.
- Wear all required PPE.
- Maintain communication with your crew.
- Keep the jobsite clean and free of hazards.

A few extra minutes spent preparing can prevent an accident.

Safety Reminder

Everyone has the responsibility to identify hazards and speak up when something isn't safe. Looking out for one another is what builds a strong safety culture.

Safety Quote of the Month

"The safest crews aren't the fastest—they're the ones who make it home together every day."

Commercial Insurance Insights

Tanner Brewer, Commercial Insurance Advisor

Gallagher

(904) 881-9317

Heat Stress Prevention for Field Crews to Protect Company Risk Profile

We have had “extreme heat” with the lack of rain, making heat stress a serious concern for both employee safety and workers’ compensation costs. Heat exhaustion can quickly become heat stroke, while fatigue and dehydration can also increase the likelihood of jobsite accidents. This will cause your workers comp mod (E-Mod) to go up increasing cost.

Why It Matters

- Heat illness can become life-threatening
- Fatigue and dehydration increase accident risk
- Lost-time injuries can impact workers’ compensation costs and the E-Mod

Warning Signs to Watch For

- Dizziness, confusion, or unusual fatigue
- Headache, nausea, or muscle cramps
- Excessive sweating or signs of dehydration
- Loss of coordination or changes in behavior

Best Practices

- Provide easy access to cool drinking water
- Schedule regular rest and cooling breaks
- Use shaded or air-conditioned recovery areas
- Schedule heavy work during cooler parts of the day
- Train supervisors and crews to recognize symptoms early

A proactive heat stress program protects your employees, reduces preventable accidents, and demonstrates strong risk management to insurance carriers. Simple daily practices can make a significant difference during the summer months. This can be added to your current safety program that is giving you a workers compensation discount.

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NUCA NF



ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

Cast Off : 7-8am BYOB
Bring Your Own Boat

Weigh In: 1:00-2:30PM

RSVP: NUCANF@gmail.com
904-296-1230

Jim King Boat Ramp
8203 Heckscher Dr
Jacksonville, FL 32226

NUCA Florida 2026 Conference



NUCA 2026
INTERNATIONAL UNION & EDUCATION CONTRACTORS
OF FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

BOARD MEETINGS/ COMMITTEE MEETINGS/ SOCIAL



**24-25
SEPTEMBER**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

OMNI ORLANDO
RESORT @
CHAMPIONSGATE

Kick off the event by building connections with fellow industry leaders, meet and mix with NUCA of Florida's board and leadership during committee sessions and a lively reception—then gear up for some friendly competition at the President's Cup Golf Tournament!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- CHAPTER DIRECTORS:
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- ADVOCACY: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- BOARD MEETING:
3:15 PM - 5:00 PM
- RECEPTION: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:30 AM TOURNAMENT
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
- 8:30 GOLF START
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM AWARDS
LUNCHEON



REGISTER NOW!
\$1400.00 TEAM

Register
NOW

**ROOM BLOCK
CLICK HERE**





26TH ANNUAL ANDREW SCOTT JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION BASS TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE



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16955 Fellsmere Grade Rd.,
Fellsmere, FL 32948



NOVEMBER 12 - 14, 2026



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