



SUMMER

OUR 61st YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

AUGUST 2024



ATTENTION

Sound and Communications Employers

Please respond to JATC Survey

On July 10th, our Sound and Communications Apprenticeship Committee mailed each signatory employer a very important survey regarding apprentice rotation and continuing education courses. It is important that you respond – especially if you have strong feelings about apprentice rotation.

During the genesis of the Sound and Communications agreement in the mid-1980's, we had no apprenticeship program for the Sound and Communication industry. We quickly developed one as that was one of the more attractive features of becoming a NECA-IBEW employer and one that the former employers signed to IBEW Local 202 did not have. The San Jose JATC took the lead on initial program development and joint classes began between a number of locals – Local 302 and 595 for one example. That training effort has now evolved to the point that our curriculum is pretty much copied by the rest of the country, so that part of the story has evolved as it should.

The early employers to the new NECA-IBEW agreement specifically did not want apprentices to be rotated from employer to employer by a third-party entity like the JATC. In fact, they even had a MOU inserted in the agreement that said the only way such rotation could happen is if both of the affected employers agreed to it. Unlike our Inside program, which has apprentice rotation, those employers felt they would spend too much time, effort, money and patience training apprentices in the unique aspects of the various systems they install, so that they needed to keep an individual for the entire 3 years to make it worthwhile.

You should also know there are Inside programs throughout the country that do not have apprentice rotation. Generally, they occur in large geographical areas with smaller populations.

Through the years the topic has been discussed many times, but today the system remains the same. There are good arguments on both sides. The Inside program is five years vs only three years for Sound and Communications, which sheds light on a key difference. On the other hand, the next time you call the hall for a person, you may get someone out of the hall that is a JATC program graduate with no actual work experience in the systems you install.

Please let the JATC know how you feel by responding to the [Survey](#).



Contra Costa Chapter Members

Our next Chapter membership meeting will be as follows:



DATE: Thursday, August 29, 2024

TIME: Social Hour – 6:00 p.m.
Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Massimo Ristorante (*Upstairs Dining Room*)
1604 Locust Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 932-1474

Please advise the number that will be attending from your firm via email to sspare09@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible.

POLITICO ALERT

www.PoliticoOnline.com "Connecting you to California"

1127 11th St., Suite 747 / Sacramento, CA 95814 / (916) 444-3770 / FAX (916) 442-6437

CAL/OSHA INDOOR HEAT RULE APPROVED

California's indoor heat illness prevention regulations were approved on July 23, 2024, by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). This new regulation goes into effect immediately.

California already has a [heat rule in place for outdoor work activities](#). This [new standard](#) would expand the current rules by covering, indoor workplaces where temperatures exceed 87 degrees Fahrenheit. All work areas that are not indoor are considered outdoor and are covered by [Cal/OSHA's existing outdoor heat illness preventing program](#).

Overview of the Rule:

The new rule requires employers at indoor worksites to maintain a Heat Illness Prevention Plan, requiring access to cool-down areas, emergency response procedures, and provision of water.

Cal/OSHA defines "indoor places of employment" as spaces that are "under a ceiling or overhead covering that restricts airflow and that are enclosed along the entire perimeter by walls, doors, windows, dividers, or other physical barriers that restrict airflow, whether open or closed." Generally, any workplace with a roof and enclosed sides is considered an indoor workplace.

Cal/OSHA defines "Cool-down area" as an "indoor or outdoor area that is blocked from direct sunlight and shielded from other high radiant heat sources to the extent feasible and is either open to the air or provided with ventilation or cooling." The temperature in indoor cool-down areas shall be maintained at less than 82 degrees Fahrenheit, unless the employer demonstrates it is infeasible.

The rule mirrors the outdoor heat illness prevention requirements which require employers to provide access to potable drinking water.

Specifically, this heat illness rule applies to all indoor work areas in the following scenarios:

- The temperature equals or exceeds 87 degrees Fahrenheit when employees are present.
- The heat index equals or exceeds 87 degrees Fahrenheit when employees are present.
- Employees wear clothing that restricts heat removal, and the temperature equals or exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit. "Clothing that restricts heat removal" means full-body clothing covering the arms, legs, and torso that is waterproof; or designed to protect the wearer from a chemical, biological, physical, radiological, or fire hazard; or designed to protect the wearer or the work process from contamination.
- Employees work in a high-radiant-heat area and the temperature equals or exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit.

This new standard does not apply in the following scenarios:

- Incidental heat exposures where an employee is exposed to temperatures at or above 82 degrees and below 95 degrees Fahrenheit for less than 15 minutes in any 60-minute period (the exception does not apply to vehicles without effective and functioning air-conditioning).
- Employees who telework from a location outside of employer's control.
- Emergency operations directly involved in the protection of life or property.

Much of the indoor heat illness prevention standard mirrors the current outdoor standard, especially as it pertains to rest periods, access to cool-down areas, emergency response procedures, and training. As such, training on the indoor standard can be conducted simultaneously with training on outdoor heat illness prevention.

Further, the rule requires a written plan that can be incorporated into an employer's injury and illness prevention program. The outdoor and indoor heat illness prevention plans can be integrated as one.

One notable difference between the current outdoor and proposed indoor standards: under the new indoor rule, employers must now measure the temperature and heat index and record whichever is greater whenever the temperature or heat index reaches 87 degrees Fahrenheit (or the temperature reaches 82 degrees for workers working in clothing that restricts heat removal or high-radiant-heat areas).

According to Cal/OSHA's [Frequently Asked Questions](#), the temperature can be measured with a thermometer that is freely exposed to the air but shielded from radiant heat sources, such as the sun, hot objects, hot surfaces, hot liquids, and fire. This air temperature must be measured in the immediate area where workers are located and recorded in degrees Fahrenheit.

More Information:

Educational materials and resources include:

[Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention webpage](#)

[Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment Regulation](#)

[Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Combined Indoor and Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention Model Plan for Employers](#)

[Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Fact Sheet for Employers](#)

[Indoor Heat Illness Prevention webpage](#)

[Comparison Chart of Indoor and Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention Standards](#)

2024 Profile of the Electrical Contractor

By [Chuck Ross](#) | Jul 15, 2024



We are optimistic because—in the responses from 828 of you—we found electrical contracting firms are getting larger and growing their revenues.

We are optimistic because—in the responses from 828 of you—we found electrical contracting firms are getting larger and growing their revenues. While firms with nine or fewer employees still make up the majority of our respondents, that lead is narrow, at only 51%, continuing a trend we noted in 2022.

Compared to two years ago, the proportion of firms with 1–4 employees showed a statistically significant decline, while the percentage of firms with 10 or more employees grew. We also found that nearly twice as many firms added employees (28%) as dropped them (15%). Two years ago, these figures were essentially equal.

Business revenues are also growing in parallel with employee numbers. That's good news and, compared to 2022, there are significantly fewer firms with revenues under \$1 million and more with revenues over \$2.5 million, both in total and in each subsequent revenue break of \$10 million and \$25 million.

. . . . [Click here](#) to read the article in its entirety.

SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS 40-YEAR-OLD DOCTRINE



Supreme Court Overturns ‘Chevron Doctrine,’ Curtailing Federal Government Power

The Supreme Court, in a vote of 6–3, overturned the Chevron deference doctrine, a bureaucracy-empowering judicial doctrine that critics say led to the explosive growth of the U.S. government in recent decades.

The new decision will make it more difficult for unelected government officials to generate new regulations.

For years, the doctrine forced judges to defer to the legal interpretations of federal agency officials who enforced federal laws they deemed ambiguous.

The White House denounced the ruling as “yet another deeply troubling decision that takes our country backwards.”

Conservatives and Republican policymakers have long been critical of the doctrine, saying it has contributed to the dramatic growth of government and gives unelected regulators far too much power to make policy by going beyond what Congress intended when it approved various laws. The authority of regulatory agencies has been increasingly questioned by the Supreme Court in recent years.

. . . . *Click [here](#) to read the article in its entirety.*

Registration is Open:

NECA 2024 Convention and Trade Show

***San Diego Convention Center
September 28, 2024 - October 1, 2024***

Download Brochure:

[NECA 2024 Attendee Brochure](#)



**SYNERGY
eLinks**

[2024 NECA-IBEW Agreement on Employee Portability](#)

[IBEW Ninth District Inside Portability Policy](#)

[2024 Ninth District Portability Notification Form \(pdf\)](#) [\(Word Download\)](#)

[Sweeney Mason - Workplace Violence Prevention Plan Template \(pdf\)](#) [\(Word Download\)](#)

[Cal/OSHA Model Workplace Violence Plan Template \(pdf\)](#) [\(Word Download\)](#)

[Workplace Violence Prevention in General Industry \(Non-Health Care Settings\) Information for Employers - Cal](#)



August 2024

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thur</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------|--|---|------------|--|--|------------|
| | | | | 1 Apprenticeship Applicant Interviews Training Center 12:00 Noon | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Apprenticeship Applicant Interviews Training Center 12:00 Noon | 9 | 10 |
| | 2024 District 9 Summer Conference <i>Park City, UT</i> | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 LMCC Training Center Martinez @5:30 p.m. | 13 Apprenticeship Applicant Interviews Training Center 12:00 Noon | 14 | 15 Retirement Trust Training Center Martinez @ 11:00 a.m. | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 NECA Massimo Ristorante Chapter Board 4:30 p.m. Chapter Membership 6:00 p.m. | 30 Off-Day Holiday (Inside Only) | 31 |