



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

May 6, 2016

Issue 63

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Calendar of Events

CE Code Seminar Dates

EDMONTON

May 16th, 2016

June 20th, 2016

September 19, 2016

November 21, 2016

CALGARY

June 13th, 2016

September 8th, 2016

November 10th, 2016

FORT McMURRAY

May 18th, 2016 (Cancelled)

Welcome to ECAA's E-Newsletter, The Spark!

This e-newsletter was created to keep members and industry informed on the Association's activities and upcoming events in a timely manner.

President's Message

It is with the deepest sadness and at the same time the strongest resolve that I write this month's Spark, my last monthly Spark update during my term as Provincial President of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta.



Obviously anyone reading this blog is aware of the destruction, suffering and panic which is still occurring and expanding during the Fort McMurray wildfire. Other areas of the Province are also tinderbox dry and also near to being overwhelmed.

My heart goes out to any of those who are directly or indirectly affected by this disaster, the effects of which will be evident for years to come. I am somewhat consoled by the news that relatively few people have lost their lives to this chaos. I was also heartened to hear that all of the friends and work associates who I know are accounted for (their property not so much). Special mention the ECAA Fort McMurray Chapter President Tim Brundage who is just one of the contractors I know who have been on the phone non stop dealing with logistics of ensuring the safety of their crews.

Side Note: Red Cross is accepting donations and also the food bank. Over the next week, the logistics of this disaster will start to be sorted and more organized messaging of all types will be distributed by the media.

I mentioned resolve because as I have stated at Chapter meeting over the past year, Albertans has a special kind of community, strength of conviction, and resilience of heart. Supported by our friends from across the Province, the country and the world, some of whom have already answered the call for help and are on the front lines right now, working alongside Fort McMurray Fire Department, this economically crucial area of the Province and home to thousands will be taken out of its current state of emergency, organized and

[CE Code Registration Form](#)

MEETINGS

CALGARY

Thursday, May 12th

EDMONTON

Monday, May 16th

(Elections)

SOCIALS

ECAA BBQ

June 14th, 2016

Upcoming Trade Shows

Skills Canada

May 11 & 12th, 2016

Edmonton Expo Centre

PROVINCIAL SKILLS COMPETITIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED!

The Edmonton Expo center has been hosting evacuees from the wildfires in Fort McMurray and will not be running the competitions this year. Thank you to the volunteers that offered their time and look forward to their participation next year.

rebuilt as soon as is humanly practical. The knowledge of what improvement lies ahead inspires me to get through each hard day right now. It is going to be a tough summer as we are so dry so early but together we will endure.

Again, I pray for those on the front lines as well as those who find themselves in the thick of all this and be assured that the ECAA Office, as well as myself and my entire family are also doing whatever we can to assist.

In closing, a quick note: registration for the annual ECAA AGM & Training Day is extremely low and I am hopeful that we have enough numbers to achieve Quorum. I look forward to seeing you May 26-28 for this important annual event.

Regards,

Keven Lefebvre, PEC

Provincial President

Industry News

Our thoughts are with those affected by the wild fires in Fort McMurray.

Please consider donating to the Red Cross by visiting their website [here](#) or by texting REDCROSS to 30333 to donate \$5. ECAA will be making a contribution and if you would like to donate with us please contact us directly.

ECAA AGM & Training Day Registration is quite low so if you are waiting to send in your registrations please do so as soon as possible. May 26th - 28th, 2016, Marriott River Cree Edmonton. ****Be sure to book your rooms by May 6th to guarantee you receive the negotiated rate. [REGISTRATION PACKAGE](#).**

Post your event to win a **NAOSH Week** prize package! Whether your event is private or public, let everyone know what you are doing to celebrate NAOSH week in 2016. Visit www.naosh.ca

What an excellent turn out at the **Calgary Construction Association (CCA) Career Expo**. Thank you to the volunteers: Matt Finck (Canem), Lindsay Anderson (Canem), Lisa Gratz (Canem), Jared Sabo (Canem), Peter Britten (Custom), Kayla Adamowicz (Custom), Chris Jardine (High Line), Cole Chapman (Seletech), Paul Wagner (Seletech), Sarah Philmeau (Allied) and Ryan Peterson (Custom). There were about 3500 students that participated in the Expo with hands on activities: pipe bending, light wiring and splicing.

A very big thank you to Guillevin International for supplying all of the materials. Congratulations to Jordan Sylvester who was the winner of the \$500 tool kit at the event.

Thank you to North East Chapter President Terry Barnett and his volunteers for manning an excellent booth at the **7th Annual Bi-Provincial Try-a-Trade** promoting the Electrical trade to approximately 1600 High School students.

New Alberta Building Code 2014 Interpretation. The following STANDATA is now available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website. To view or print copies go to the link below. **Building Code Interpretation [14-BCI-001](#)** - Application of Energy Efficiency Requirements and Enforcement Dates.

To view Interpretations that have been issued for the Alberta Building Code [click here](#).

The search is on for the **Canada's Safest Employer Awards 2016**. Does your company have programs, policies and practices in place to keep young workers safe on the job? If so, [click here](#) to nominate your company for the as part of Canada's Safest Employers awards. Nominations close June 1. For more information about Canada's Safest Employers, visit www.safestemployers.com.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Training Day is right around the corner and this is an excellent opportunity to earn your Annual Professional Development (APD) points for this year. We have a great schedule lined up for the day and a full house for Table Top representatives that will be on display immediately following Training Day.

AGM attendance will also earn you an additional 6 points per AGM attended.

We look forward to your participation and attendance at this year's Technical Training Day on Friday, May 27th at the Marriott River Cree in Edmonton.

[TRAINING DAY REGISTRATION](#)

News from Alberta Construction Association

[Finding New Purpose in Older Structures](#)

The challenge of building a greener economy is how do we reuse or repurpose older buildings rather than tear them down. An article in Construction Today mentions how finding new uses for old buildings can keep historical landmarks in the present while maintaining the look of the past."Frequently, clients want to adapt old buildings with great bones instead of building new because the design elements and unique attributes within the existing structure often cannot be replicated or recreated."

Typically buildings in North America are considered dated if they are over 40 years old. The difficulty for the industry is finding a way to keep these buildings current yet maintain the look and feel. Alberta Infrastructure has expressed, in meetings with the Minister and in the Ministry business plan, a desire to maximize its inventory of older structures through reinvestment.

For more on this subject read the article [here](#).

[Municipal Affairs Extends the NECB 2011 Mandatory Enforcement Deadline](#)

Input from municipalities, construction industry, professionals, safety codes officers and the Building Sub-Council of the Safety Codes Council has indicated that the May 1, 2016 mandatory application of the NECB 2011 will not be practical or feasible. The substantive changes required to accommodate energy efficiency with respect to design, training and verification necessitates a relatively short extension.

For that purpose an extension was announced, the new date for mandatory application will now fall November 1, 2016.

For further details please read the following document:

[CCA Quality of Documents Report](#)

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) recently embarked on a series of "Quality of Documents" workshops across Canada to explore and discuss the issue of poor quality documentation, its potential causes, and perhaps most importantly, potential solutions to address the issue. In total, twelve (12) workshops were held across Canada, involving more than 600 representatives from all stakeholder groups, including Owners, Architects, Engineers and Contractors.

This issue is one that has remained on the CCA radar for a number of years, and was most recently referenced during our 2014 Industry Summit as a key issue impacting our industry in the coming years. These workshops provided the opportunity to explore the causes, as well as potential solutions for the problem. The workshop structure allowed for open and candid discussions on the topic, and included an anonymous survey to rank the impact of potential causes and issues related to quality of documents.

With the workshops now complete, CCA is pleased to be publishing a summary report of both the workshops and the surveys conducted. In the report, readers will find the top five identified causes with the greatest impact on document quality, as identified from more than 400 survey results.

If there are any questions or comments on the document, please do not hesitate to contact the Canadian Construction Association office.

[Quality of Documents Report](#)

[Executive Summary of Report](#)

[aceBim Website Updated](#)

aceBIM announced that their new website is now live at <http://acebim.ca>. The site includes up to date information and will add new events as they are announced.

The site was updated to modernize the look and feel. Also it is now more mobile friendly for those viewing through phones and other devices.

[Alberta Infrastructure Introduces Prompt Payment in Contracts](#)

While delayed payment is an issue across industry, Alberta Infrastructure has showed great leadership to step up and offer a solution that we hope is adopted by other owners. As part of ongoing dialogue between the Alberta Construction Association and Alberta Infrastructure, AI has changed their contracts to address the issues of prompt payment and progressive release of holdback.

Alberta Infrastructure has introduced four significant changes to their contracts.

1. The contract specifies a maximum of 30 calendar days after the initial receipt of the application for payment, provided the contractor has properly completed their claim. Infrastructure will verify the

invoice and adjust if necessary, advise the General Contractor within 14 days of the amount to be paid. Infrastructure has modified the Statutory Declaration so that the General Contractor must confirm that they paid their subcontractors within 10 days of receipt of payment from the Government.

2. Their contracts specify that amounts which are not in dispute will be paid. Disputed amounts will be resolved during the next invoice period.
3. Alberta Infrastructure has committed to publicizing the date of payment so that subcontractors and suppliers will be aware of when the prime contractor was paid (see contact info below).
4. Upon appropriate application, holdback funds will be released once the portion of the work is complete. The contractor will submit their certificate of substantial performance for their portion of the work performed, and follow normal procedures of posting the certificate at the job site. Infrastructure will verify substantial performance. After the 45 day period, the contractor then applies for release as part of the next progress claim. Warranty will still be from the date of Interim Acceptance.

Alberta Construction Association applauds these changes. Prompt pay supports jobs for Albertans and their families through increased cash flow allows companies to increase staff.

Prompt pay supports small business as it will allow companies to pursue more work with timely payments. Prompt payment saves money for taxpayers with lowers bid prices by reducing the costs of financing receivables, it will increase the number of competitive bids.

Contractors can determine if Infrastructure has issued a progress payment by calling 1 - 844-252-5322 or infras.payments@gov.ab.ca

Women Building Futures (WBF)

WBF Intro to ECAA Members for The Spark

Women Building Futures (WBF) was established in 1998 and has been the leader in construction trades training for women, providing comprehensive assessment, skills training and 'best practices' coaching to this under-represented and local source of labour.

As a part of our programming, WBF is proud to offer a standalone 4 week program: **Electrical Basics**. This program includes: Worksite Safety Certification (CSTS&WHMIS, Standard First Aid, CPR Level 1, OSSA Fall Protection, Elevated Work Platform, ESTS), basic tools and equipment training, drawing and blueprint reading training, math review, and skills development workshop for the Electrical trade. We also provide Best Practices for working safely and productively in construction including addressing the cost of absenteeism, accepting feedback and safety awareness. We recruit, assess and train women who are committed to pursuing the electrical trade as a career choice, including completing Journeyman certification.

Our expanded Employer Services provide our Employers of Choice (EOC) greater and more customized access to qualified, motivated women. We focus on partnering with like-minded organizations where strong and mutually beneficial relationships can be developed.

Valuable opportunities for Employers to work with WBF include: guest speaking, site tours, industry networking and program sponsorship. WBF graduates are known to be work ready, hardworking, committed and career focused. We are always looking to connect and always happy to share further information. Please reach out to us at any time!

<http://www.womenbuildingfutures.com/EmployerServices/EmployerServices.aspx>

Board of Directors Update

Next Provincial Board meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 29th** at the Marriott River Cree following AGM.

ECAA values our members for their continued support in providing direction and growth to the Association. Concerns? Questions? Please contact a Board member or your Executive Director.

Labour News

16th Annual Unit 2 Golf Tournament of the IBEW Local 424 is taking place on Friday, August 26th, 2016, at Silverwig Golf course in Calgary, AB.

For more information and to register click [HERE](#).

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Next meeting Thursday, May 12th. **Meeting Sponsor:** Schneider Electric.

EDMONTON: Next meeting Monday, May 16th, 2016. **Guest Speakers:** Megan Bates, Women Building Futures; John Knoll, PEC **Topics of Discussion:** Women Building Futures Programs; Unaccompanied Worker Safety. **Meeting Sponsor:** EWEL. ****ELECTIONS will be held so please make every effort to attend to ensure we reach quorum. If you are unable to attend please send us your proxies.**

Save The Date: ECAA BBQ June 14th, 2016.

FORT McMURRAY: In light of recent events upcoming Chapter meetings and code courses have been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Our thoughts are with all the people affected by the wildfires and continue to offer support.

New Members

Contractor Members: **YK Electrical Services** (Edmonton); **Scorpion Electrical Solutions Inc.** (Edmonton); **Silver Electric** (Penhold); **Westward Electric Services** (Fort McMurray); **Peace Country Electric** (Peace River);

Associate Members: **Optrics Engineering** (Edmonton); **Cat Rental Store** (Edmonton)

Online Training

ECAA has launched the following new courses to our training website.

Along with the Ethics and ESTS Electrical Worker Training on CSA Z462 we have added:

- ESTS Electrical Worker USA 2015
- ESTS Non-Electrical Worker Canada and USA 2015
- Bear Awareness Online Training
- Confined Space Pre-Entry Online Training
- Fire Safety Awareness
- Ground Disturbance Online Training - Supervisory 3.0
- H2S Awareness Online Training 2.0
- Hazard Awareness Online Training 2.0
- TDG Online Training 3.0

- WHMIS 2015 Online Training
- Defensive Driving - 3 Demerit Reduction Online Training (Alberta Only)
- Defensive Driving Condensed Online Training (CDN Version)
- Fatigue Management for Senior Administrators and Supervisors Online Training
- Fatigue Management: Driving Drowsy - Taking Responsibility Online Training
- Professional Drive Improvement Course Online Training - 3 Demerit Reduction (Alberta Only)

Start your training today on www.ecaatraining.com

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2016.

[2016 PEC Course Schedule and Registration](#)

ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES Thursday, June 2nd & Friday, June 3rd, 2016, (Edmonton) This course will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

ELECTRICAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT Thursday, June 23rd & Friday, June 24th, 2016, (Edmonton) Practical hands-on skills to learn and apply project management processes and knowledge areas, to reduce project cost through effective purchasing and administration; to avoid paying for others errors or omissions; to recover all costs which you are entitled; effective record keeping to enhance project profitability.

Objectives PEC Electrical PM:

1. List and apply Project Management processes (5) and knowledge areas (10).
2. Identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled.
3. Avoid paying for others' errors or omissions.
4. Reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration.
5. Identify cost overruns - and take corrective action.
6. Use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability.

BLUE PRINT READING COURSE Friday, June 10th and Saturday, June 11th, 2016 (Edmonton). On many projects, especially large ones, many electricians and apprentices have very little opportunity to spend much time reading the blueprints. This, despite the fact that the ability to effectively navigate through a set of prints is an essential skill for any tradesperson. This twelve-hour course is intended for both people who have a limited amount of blueprint reading experience and for those who want to brush up on their skills. The bulk of the time in this course will be spent reading commercial blueprints and answering a series of quizzes pertaining to them. A series of short lectures will supplement the print-reading exercises. A brief introduction to specifications will also be provided as part of the course. At the end of the course participants will have the option to purchase the textbooks and blueprints used throughout the course. ****Not a PEC credit course.*** [BLUE PRINT READING REGISTRATION FORM](#)
ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA. Stay tuned as ECAA will be uploading several more courses to our training site!

www.ecaatraining.com

Arc Flash & Shock Electrical Safety Training based on CSA Z462-2015 Developed for workers that perform energized electrical work. The course curriculum is based on the 3rd edition of CSA Z462, published in 2015. The overall course content was developed using industry accepted best practice standards as the under pinning in support of meeting Provincial or Federal regulatory due diligence for arc flash and shock.

ESTS Electrical Worker training is focused on the practical application of CSA Z462 within the workplace and providing documentation tools in support of the Employer's overall Occupational Health & Safety Management System and an Electrical Safety Program. Employers are required to have an updated Electrical Safety Program that incorporates the new requirements from CSA Z462-2015 for workers to receive the most benefit from this course.

The ESTS Electrical Worker course is broken down into five sections for ease of use. Workers should self-pace themselves based on their understanding of the subject matter. All workers are encouraged to stop and start their course by saving their progress before exiting. At any time during the course workers can ask questions to an Instructor and follow along using a comprehensive Student Workbook as a training aid.

Students who score 80% or greater earn their training certificate and can apply for 0.6 Continuing Education Units (CEU's). Final assessment questions are fully randomized so Workers never have the same exact questions.

Electrical Worker Training Modules:

1. Introduction
2. Regulations, Consensus-based Standards and Best Practices
3. Understanding Electricity in the Workplace
4. Electrical Hazards: Understanding the Potential for Harm
5. Risk Assessment Procedure
6. Establishing an Electrically Safe Work Condition
7. Engineering and Administrative Controls
8. Electrical Specific PPE, Tools and Equipment
9. Emergency Response, Incident Reporting and Program Maintenance
10. Final Assessment & Work Task Scenarios

Learning Objectives for Qualified Electrical Workers:

1. Explain the Regulations and Standards applicable to their role and responsibilities.
2. Identify and understand electrical hazards and risk assessment.
3. Effectively manage electrical hazards by following the Work Flow Process to safely execute energized electrical work.
4. Learn how to complete an Arc Flash Risk Assessment and Shock Risk Assessment as part of an overall Risk Assessment Procedure (RAP).
5. Apply preventive and protective control measures to reduce risk.
6. Understand electrical incident emergency response and incident reporting requirements

The ESTS Electrical Worker training course was developed by Terry Becker, P.Eng., ESPS Electrical Safety Program Solutions INC. and ESPS is partnering with the ECAA to bring this training to Members.

To purchase this training course visit www.eaatraining.com

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM

This course offers the critical basic skills and concepts needed to supervise a crew in the residential, institutional, commercial, industrial and civil construction sectors. For more information click on the following link [First Level Supervisor Training Program](#) . Course is complimentary to all

unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.

Course cost is \$400 and to enroll contact Christine chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

ON-LINE ETHICS COURSE. This course is designed for the Certified Master Electrician (CME) that desires to maintain that designation and for any Registered Master Electrician (RME) or Master electrician that desires to become a CME Information at www.ecaatraining.com (Ethics course).

Contact Us

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and its important to us. Please submit any comments to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on June 3rd, 2016.



ECAA

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