



CONNECTIONS

Western Ohio Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



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July, 2025

Dayton Dragons first pitch

As a sponsor of the Dayton Dragons, the National Electrical Contractors Association Western Ohio Chapter (NECA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 82 held a group night at the game on July 3 with 25 in attendance. Various contractors and IBEW set up booths so those visiting the ballpark could learn about the electrical trades and the apprenticeship program. In addition, NECA/IBEW selected a member to throw out the first pitch of the game. Top Apprentice Branden Moody was given that honor in the Dayton Dragons game vs Lake County Captains.

Emily Anderson, Organizer's Assistant (left) and Denise Anderson, Apprentice Liaison, share information about the electrical apprenticeship program.



Top Apprentice Branden Moody throws out the first pitch of the game.



Tonya First, Director of HR for ESI Electrical Contractors (left) with Lexia Knight, ESI Marketing Coordinator.



Lisa Kruger (left) and Lance Beck with Chapel Electric / CRT.

Graduating Journeymen

On May 8, 2024, the Dayton JATC Technical Training Center for Electrical Apprentices celebrated this year's class of 20 graduating Inside Wiremen and one Installer Technician. The top Journeymen this year were Branden Moody for Inside Wireman and Tylor Schuler for Installer Technician. Also celebrated was graduate Jeremy Hunter who had perfect

attendance for all five years of school.

An often overlooked career path for high school graduates is an apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship programs consist of a combination of on-the-job training (earning while you learn) and classroom instruction, for which college credit is available.

The U.S. Department of Labor recognizes over 1000 Apprenticeship programs in several industries: advanced manufacturing, hospitality, transportation, aerospace, health care, biotechnical, energy, information technology and of course, the building trades. On average, an apprentice will earn \$201,600 in five years (the length of the electrical apprenticeship

program). A college graduate owes an average of \$50,000 in student loans at the end of four years. It's plain to see why opting for a career in the building trades is a win-win experience.

Programs between community colleges and the apprenticeship programs and also four-year university

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Graduation cont'd

programs, help apprentices transfer credit easily to further their education.

The apprentice learns the skills of the trade through on-the-job training, working alongside an experienced journeyman who passes on the skills that he or she has learned over the years. In addition, the apprentice receives related classroom instruction that produces competency and pride that leads to becoming a true craftsman.

Congratulations to all the 2025 Inside Wireman

Journeymen: Richard Allen, Christopher Anderson, Zane Everhart, Nicholas Forward, Joshua Gnau, Lane Goodbar, Bradley Graham, Joshua Griffith, Jeremy Hunter, Devin Jenkins, Richard Kruger, Zane Hason, Branden Moody, Kevin Myers, Chandler Napier, William O'Hanlon III, Cody Roell, Logan Seebach, Jason Serrer, and Shawn Wantz; and Installer Technician Tylor Schuler.



OSHA responds to *HEAT STRESS*

Heat stress is the leading cause of weather-related deaths every year. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, between 2011 and 2022, almost 500 worker fatalities resulted from exposure to environmental heat. Over the same period, nearly 34,000 job-related heat injuries and illnesses caused workers to miss days of work. This has prompted OSHA to address this deadly hazard with a proposed regulation.

OSHA's plans. The agency has been working for many years to develop a permanent standard specifically targeting this hazard. In the last decade, OSHA has implemented several emphasis and awareness programs attempting to reduce heat stress injuries and illnesses. It is difficult to regulate and enforce heat stress provisions, since heat-related illnesses are hard to quantify and measure. Heat affects people differently and is subjective.

OSHA's proposed regulation would kick in when

employees are exposed to a heat index of 80°F or higher for more than 15 minutes in any 60-minute period. That would mean it's triggered



when the temperature feels like 80°F, even if the actual air temperature is lower. OSHA also is proposing an extreme heat trigger at an index of 90°F.

Under these conditions, workers should take more frequent breaks, stay hydrated and be subject to additional monitoring from a supervisor or co-worker.

OSHA's Heat and Exposure Safety and Health Guidance indicates, "Heat conditions can change rapidly and management commitment to adjusting

heat stress controls is critical to prevent heat illness. An individual at the work site should be responsible for monitoring conditions and implementing the employer's heat plan throughout the workday. This individual can be a foreman, job site supervisor, plant manager, safety director, or anyone else with the proper training."

What to do?

Proper training includes identifying and controlling heat hazards, recognizing early symptoms of heat stress, administering first aid for heat-related illnesses and activating emergency medical services quickly when needed.

Symptoms to monitor include clammy, moist skin and pale complexion, extreme fatigue, headache, nausea, vomiting, giddiness, fainting, loss of the ability to sweat, dry or hot skin, mental confusion, convulsions, delirium, heat cramps, heat rash and even falling into a coma. Workers

experiencing or exhibiting any of these symptoms should be moved to a cooler place, splashed with cool water and fanned while sipping water or a drink with electrolytes. Individuals that lose consciousness or exhibit more extreme symptoms should seek emergency medical attention.

When higher temperatures occur, workers need to gradually acclimate. The body needs to build a tolerance to the heat gradually over time. The process of building tolerance is called heat acclimatization. Lack of acclimatization represents a major risk factor for fatal outcomes. And finally, monitor the actual work being performed. Take breaks from heavy physical activity to cool down!



July, 2025

Your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome! Contact the Western Ohio Chapter - NECA.

website: www.wocneca.com
phone: 937.361.7879

City of Dayton signs PLA

The Dayton City Commission approved a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) ordinance at its July 2 meeting. The ordinance guides how the City approaches large construction projects, setting a standard that balances efficiency, equity, and economic impact. “This ordinance is an investment in our workforce and in Dayton’s future,” said Commissioner Christopher Shaw. “By promoting fair labor practice and increasing opportunities for local workers, we’re building a stronger, more equitable city.

The ordinance applies to City bid contracts of over \$2 million for construction, reconstruction, or renovation of City-owned buildings or structures. *Contracts involving the Dayton International Airport will be exempt as they are prohibited from using project labor agreements.*

What is a PLA?

A Project Labor Agreement is a pre-hiring collective bargaining agreement between a project owner (often a government agency, like the City of Dayton) and one or more labor unions. It sets the terms and conditions of



employment for a specific construction project.

What are the key benefits of a PLA?

- Predictable labor costs and reduced delays. Pre-set wages, benefits, and working

conditions reduce uncertainty. This ensures a steady labor supply.

- Skilled and reliable workers. Workers are typically drawn from union hiring halls, which supply trained and safety-certified tradespeople. This also encourages the use of apprenticeship programs, helping maintain quality and safety standards.
- Improved project efficiency and quality. PLAs help coordinate multiple trades and avoid jurisdictional disputes and boosts collaboration between contractors and labor.

- Labor peace and stability. No strikes or lockouts are allowed during the project term.

- Support for local workers and disadvantaged groups. Many PLAs include local hire provisions or goals for minority, women, and veteran participation.
- Political and community support. Government-funded projects with PLAs often receive more public and political backing.
- Reduced risk for project owners. By standardizing labor relations, owners reduce legal risks and potential cost overruns.

“PLAs bring predictability and fairness to public projects. This is about ensuring Dayton residents benefit from Dayton investments – both through jobs today and career pathways tomorrow,” said Commissioner Matt Joseph.

High suicide risk *with construction workers*

The construction industry has one of the highest suicide rates among professions - with the rate among male construction workers 75% higher than men in the general population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An estimated 6,000 construction workers died by suicide in 2022. That compares to around 1,000 who died from a construction work-related injury.

A report from 2023, shows a suicide rate of 52.1 per 100,000 for male electricians. Suicide rates for women in construction are also elevated reaching 25.3 suicides per 100,000 in 2021. This rate is significantly higher than the average for women which was 8 per 100,000 in 2021. The crisis is the result of a combination of workplace

culture, economic stress, and mental health stigma.

Construction culture often prizes stoicism, “tough it out” mentality, and self-

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reliance, so emotional vulnerability is frequently viewed as a weakness. Workers are less likely to talk about mental health or seek help, even when suffering.

Financial instability comes with the territory. Many construction jobs are

seasonal, contract-based, or subject to layoffs. Job insecurity creates chronic financial stress. The fear of being unable to support a family weighs heavily on workers.

High rates of chronic pain and injuries can lead to opioid or alcohol dependence. Depression, PTSD (especially in veterans working in the trades) and anxiety are

underdiagnosed and undertreated.

Long shifts, early mornings, and physically demanding work take a toll on sleep and stress levels. Worksite locations may be remote, isolating workers from family or support systems.

And travel for jobs can increase loneliness.

Establishing mental health programs and providing ready access to such programs is key to helping those in need. On-site support and encouraging dialog about mental health will help to remove the stigma often associated with seeking help for mental health issues. IBEW has an employee assistance plan (EAP) in place that is actively promoted on job sites. In addition, education for suicide prevention will soon be offered at the electrical JATC for all apprentices. It is important to create a culture that removes the stigma that prevents those enduring stress to seek the help they need.



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LMCC / NECA / IBEW 22nd Annual Golf Outing

**WHERE: Sycamore Creek Country
Club
Springboro, Ohio**

WHEN: Monday, September 22, 2025

For registration information please contact
Chelsie Truax at ctrux@wocneca.org.



The Western Ohio Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association Directory:

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