

ClientCurrents

News & Views for Building Professionals

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THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW



Electrical Alliance Contractors Take Safety Seriously



The risks on the job site are great, so builders and owners want assurance that the contractors and subcontractors they hire have the proper training to perform their jobs safely.

Contractors who are part of the Electrical Alliance help building owners keep their job site safe and insurance costs low by providing their electricians and managers with a level of safety training that is unparalleled in the industry.

Their electricians receive 30 hours of OSHA training during their 5-year apprenticeship, and then receive ongoing training from a safety director provided by the Washington, DC Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

A Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Vince Miller promotes job site safety by helping NECA contractors maintain comprehensive safety programs, by providing job site training to all employees, and by performing risk evaluations on specific projects. Miller acts in

NECA Safety Training Courses

- ▶ Electrical Safe Work Practices
- ▶ OSHA 10-hour Construction
- ▶ OSHA 30-hour Construction Fall Protection
- ▶ Fire Protection
- ▶ Forklift
- ▶ Trenching
- ▶ And More

a support role to the individual companies' safety officers. This position—and this emphasis on safety—is rare, as virtually no one in the building industry offers such a resource.

"It's helpful to have a CSP available to consult on different projects," says Sunny Vargas, president of VarcoMac Electrical Construction Co., a NECA member and co-chair of the Electrical Alliance, "We know that we are giving the owners the highest level of safety on the job site with his support."

Miller offers a variety of safety courses to meet a contractor's needs on any given job site. He tailors the training to their needs, providing both open enrollment classes and

customized job site training based on a specific job. Additionally, he conducts safety training of JATC apprentices, which provides continuity between the apprenticeship program and beyond the apprenticeship program throughout the career of a journeyman.

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One example is the NFPA 70E electrical safety training. Contractors who take Miller's training enhance their knowledge base and safety policies as well as stay ahead of the curve. While OSHA requires 70E-2000 standards, Miller uses the 70E-2004 standards and the 2005 Electrical Code.

"We raise the bar on OSHA standards. We train to keep our contractors ahead of the current accepted OSHA standards with our own, higher standards," says Miller.

In Confined Space Training, an especially valuable course Miller offers, participants are placed in a simulated hazardous life threatening situation in an actual manhole—created solely for training, so that they can experience a real rescue, not just listen to a lecture about how one is performed.

NECA makes it a high priority to help its members use good safety practices. From apprentices to contractors, Miller's unique position in the Washington, DC chapter provides a distinctive value for owners and general contractors. It helps to reduce the job site risks and keeps insurance costs down while raising productivity at the same time. Fewer accidents mean less time lost for emergency treatment and recovery.

"Our extensive training in safety and accident prevention help keep our electrical contractors' Experience Modification Rate (EMR) rates down, which in turn keep their clients' costs down," says Miller.



Find out more at
www.electricalalliance.org



Vincent R. Miller, CSP

Vince has over 20 years of experience with the construction industry. He is an Authorized Safety Professional, and an OSHA instructor. He is an active member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Construction Safety Association, American Society of Safety Engineers, Board of Certified Safety Professionals and the National Safety Council.