

Spring 2007 Presidential Views

One of our members forwarded this quote to me recently.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. It is the only thing that ever has.”-Margaret Mead

It speaks so adequately to what we can do and what we are trying to achieve in our association's work. I printed it and placed it on my office door to remind myself that we should never view our efforts as anything less than an attempt to change our world's situation for the better of all involved. It also challenges us to do our best and realize if the work will not contribute positively to others that we are probably working towards the wrong goal or a least have lost our way in the process.

Members, we've made a difference in our past, we need to continue on the foundation we've inherited, never missing the opportunity to better our industry. We've all heard that a chain is only as good as its weakest link. Let's not let any of us be satisfied with being that link. Let's continue to make improvements and progress so that others will be served, recognize our efforts, and join us in them. Remember our State Motto: "Esse Quam Videri" (To Be Rather Than To Seem).

We are currently opposing proposed legislation for House Bill 39 (Senate Bill 91), SB490 & SB575, HB 999. Please contact your Senator and Representative to voice your position. These bills, if passed, will lower our industry's safety and risk our neighbors lives. These bills will exclude Industrial Machinery from code enforcement. Additional bills deserving our attention are SB694/HB700, SB695/H586, HB728, & HB871. To review these bills go to www.ncga.state.nc.us.

Thank you all for your efforts in this association, for the betterment of our industry and state in behalf of all our citizens. Please contact me anytime to discuss ways for us to improve our association.

One last reminder, "***Be ye kind one to another.***" – The Apostle Paul -

Gary Mullis, Chapter President

Industry Events

[\(See NC IAEI Calendar\)](#)

New Faces and Places, Retirements

Charles Wilkes is the new Chief Assistant State Electrical Inspector for the NC Department of Insurance / Office of the State Fire Marshal. Charles was previously employed by the Town of Cary Inspections Department. Welcome Charles! We hope to see you at one of our meetings or continuing education seminars.

Behind the Scenes

Our new chapter website is now online, thanks in part to some great friends of the association. Caressa Burleson is an independent contractor for internet security and web design. She was hired by the association to help get the new website created, organized and working. Caressa has gone far and above the original job she was hired for, and we owe her many thanks.

Also, Epsie Stevens was a great help with the change from our old website to the new one. Epsie works for the NC Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, and had updated the chapter's website regularly over the years. Thanks for all your help Epsie!

Sick, Shut-in and Bereaved

Harold Neese passed away on Sunday, March 11 at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital. Harold was born in Guilford County on March 4, 1933, the son of John Harvey Neese and Bessie Clapp Neese. He was a member of Mount Hope United Church of Christ where he was currently serving on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Neese was charter member of the Mount Hope Community Fire Department where he was currently serving on the Board of Directors. Harold retired as chief electrical inspector of Guilford County with 33 years of service.

Mr. Neese was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson Ronnie Kyle Fulk, and sister Betty Lou Neese. Harold is survived by his loving wife Mary Neese of the home; five children, Shirley Smith and husband Bill of Julian, Sandra N. McCray and husband Eugene of Julian, Kathy Fulk of Whitsett, Kim Hall and husband Jerry of Graham, and Chuck Bettini and wife Ashley of Apex; two sisters, Blanche Greeson of Whitsett and Mary Catherine Moser of Whitsett; two brothers, John H. Neese of Whitsett and Henry F. Neese of Liberty; five grandchildren, Haley and Hunter McCray, Dawnn Power and Hugh and Alex Bettini.

In lieu of flowers the family request that memorials be made to Mount Hope United Church of Christ, 2400 Mount Hope Church Road, Whitsett, NC 27377 or the Mount Hope Community Fire Department, 6651 Holts Store, Road Julian NC 27283 or the American Cancer Society, 4 Oak Branch Drive, Greensboro, NC 27401.

Product Safety

Industrial Machinery and Safety Inspections

Electrical Inspectors, Testing Laboratory Inspectors, OSHA Inspectors and other electrical experts agree: Industrial machinery has been responsible for many shock, electrocution, fire and explosion incidents in the workplace. Most of these incidents are in manufacturing facilities, some in commercial laboratories, many more in a variety of businesses where un-approved equipment and machinery is used without a proper safety inspection.

Over the years, electrical industrial machinery (Non-certified, Not Listed or Labeled) has consistently shown to have the following critical hazards:

1. Incorrect use of Supplementary protectors and motor disconnects (Not designed or tested for use as Circuit Breakers) –especially European and other foreign-made electrical machinery.
2. Grounding. Many systems do not have proper provisions for a dedicated main ground, motor grounding, equipment bonding, or bonding of other parts, subsystems, doors that contain line voltage components.
3. Motor Protection – missing, inadequate, or otherwise improper motor overload protection.
4. Transformer Protection, power supply and component protection – misuse of components
5. Access to live parts, shock, electrocution, Arc flash.
6. Ordinary machinery in hazardous locations (Explosive Atmosphere).
7. Protection of connections and components from physical damage. (Example, forklifts, foot traffic, smashed conduit or interconnecting cables) and from chemical / corrosion hazards.
8. Incorrect branch size from missing or inaccurate product and machinery electrical nameplate.
9. Critical warning markings missing.
10. Non-existent or inaccurate schematics.
11. Flammable plastic and other materials used for electrical enclosures.
12. Non certified electrical components.
13. Machine Guarding.
14. Operator injury / crush injury or death from pneumatic / hydraulic failure
15. Chemical and Radiation hazards

When one of our inspectors identifies equipment as being suspect (Non-certified), these hazards can be avoided and incidents prevented. Many times our inspectors don't get to see this

equipment / machinery, for example when it is installed after the CO is granted, and/or installed without a permit. This is when we must rely on our electrical contractors and workplace safety personnel to help identify this potential problem.

Report suspect products / industrial machinery to the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 800-638-8095, or e-mail them: info@cpsc.gov.

Report non-certified and other suspect equipment to NC OSHA (Hazardous working conditions) at 919-807-2786, or 800-625-2267. You can also fill out an online complaint at: www.nclabor.com/contact.htm. Go to the third paragraph and click on the link.

Safety Reminders

OSHA is coming (Or are they..?). Always keep in mind that OSHA regulations apply to everyone, including inspectors on job sites.

When does OSHA show up? That's an important question. First, it's important to understand that OSHA's role in workplace safety is enforcement, but usually after the fact. In some cases, OSHA inspectors are called to a workplace after an incident or complaint. OSHA also has voluntary programs that allow employers to audit their facility with the help of OSHA advisors. These programs are gaining in popularity, and the waiting list grows every year. This is because OSHA's resources are very limited – that's why there are many published documents for workplace safety, available to the general public. For example, go to www.osha.gov, click on "Publications and Posters" on the Left-hand side under the heading "About OSHA".

The unfortunate truth is this: OSHA shows up when it's too late. Most of the time, it's not their fault. In some cases, NC OSHA performed inspections, and after the inspection a tragic incident occurred, as with West Pharmaceutical. The fact is, OSHA relies on local Inspectors to enforce local, state and federal laws and codes.

Accidents / Incidents

In February of 2007, there was an explosion at Oracle Flexible Packaging plant in Winston-Salem, just south of Winston-Salem State University. The explosion ripped a hole in the building and fire spread throughout the building. The initial investigation focused on reports that **the fire started in a piece of industrial machinery**. Later, it was confirmed that the fire started in a milling machine, then fire and explosions spread to other parts of the facility. Fortunately, no one was killed in the incident, however there were several injuries. The incident is estimated to cost Oracle several hundred thousand dollars in damage, and loss of production. Also, it will take a considerable amount of time for the workers to get back to their jobs.

Legislative Issues

New NC Legislation Threatens Workplace Safety – Once again, workplace safety and the authority of all inspectors to enforce our laws is under attack. As in previously written legislation, no inspection experts or any other safety experts were asked for advice or input. These parties responsible for pressuring our legislators are most likely aware of the concerns of our inspectors over these issues, but have chosen to ignore the experts once again. The NC Ellis Cannady Chapter IAEI has issued a Statewide press release to warn the public. First, House Bill 39 / Senate Bill 91 were presented. This bill was written to help protect manufacturing jobs, especially in the furniture industry, but contains a part VII **which attempts to exclude Industrial Machinery from code enforcement and safety inspections**. Senate bills 490 and 575 are more direct, and use the dangerous language from part VII of the HB 39 SB 91 bill. You can view these bills on the NC IAEI website: www.nciaei.org/section/docs. Call and write your legislators to stop these bills from becoming law and sacrificing the lives of our citizens. **Fire, Mechanical, Plumbing and Building Inspectors: Remember, these bills also very much affect your**

inspections. If this equipment / machinery is on your job site, you will not be able to comment on anything connected to or subject to damage from it. When you sign off on the inspection, you'll be putting your name on something that could result in injury, deaths, fire, explosions.

NCBCC and ZF Lemforder – The NC Building Codes Council delivered a ruling on the ZF Lemforder appeal. The ruling states that “Industrial machinery” is not electrical equipment even when it is connected to the electrical system of the building.

The appeal originated when an Electrical Inspector identified equipment / machinery that had no evidence of inspection or safety certification to US standards. When the machinery was inspected by an approved third party agency, it was found to have critical hazards, such as the incorrect use of supplementary protectors. When used incorrectly, these devices have been shown to fail energized and cause fires, short-circuits, explosions and injury/fatalities. You can read the text of this disturbing ruling on the NC IAEI website.

If an Industrial Machinery system causes a fire or explosion, is it part of the building? The answer should be obvious. Apparently it's not obvious to many, but our electrical safety experts agree: It doesn't matter what it's called, if it's connected to the supply of electricity, it can be a hazard if not designed properly and inspected.

See the NC IAEI website for more information www.nciaei.org/section/docs. Click on the links at the right side of the Home page. Also, you can view, print or download the letters and files related to these issues, you can to directly to the “Documents” page.

FYI

NEC Continuing Education Classes for 2007. Continuing education is now a requirement for Electrical Inspectors as well as Electrical Contractors. Why not get your continuing education from your NC IAEI Inspectors Association? Visit our chapter website for updates on continuing education. See our registration form in this issue of COCO news.

NC Electrical Council. Plans are under way to re-establish the NC Electrical Council. The NC Electrical council will be made up of electrical experts from government, industry, and associations. Check the NC IAEI website for updates. www.nciaei.org.

Safety Smart Program! The NC IAEI now has trained instructors for the new “I am Safety Smart” program. This program, initiated and supported by the International office of the IAEI, sends NC IAEI chapter members into our schools to introduce our children to the concept and practice of electrical safety.

2005 NEC Code books . 2005 NEC Code books are still available. Make sure everybody you know that needs to use the Code has an opportunity to have their own copy. Check our website www.nciaei.org/section/products for Code books available, as well as other educational materials and IAEI NC Chapter promotional items.