



# SUMMER

OUR 58TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

JULY 2021



## *"Independence Day"*

This is a reminder that Independence Day falls on Sunday this year. Both our Inside and Sound and Communication Agreements provide for the relocation of holidays that fall on Sunday to the following Monday. Also, Friday, July 2nd is a scheduled Off-day under the Inside Agreement.

Seems hard to believe now, but this country was originally founded as a result of a tax revolt. Well, that was a major reason anyway. To get you into the patriotic holiday spirit, we would like to share what Thomas Jefferson memorialized as the items the King of Great Britain had imposed on the colonists that they viewed as a terrible miscarriage of justice. In a few words, it distills down to an overbearing government and too much taxation.

*Let's not lose sight of that.*

*Happy 4th of July!*



**Contra Costa Chapter**

## **Membership Meeting**

*July 15, 2021*

The next regular meeting of the Chapter Membership will take place on Thursday, July 15, 2021 beginning with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Our last Chapter meeting was "many moons ago" (actually 18 of them by my count). We will try to bring everyone up-to-date with the various Committee reports. Please make an effort to attend the meeting, especially if you have not yet found the courage to foray back out into the world again.

Click [here](#) to RSVP

# POLITICO ALERT

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## **Cal/OSHA Clears Up Confusion on COVID- 19 Standards**

### **Changes Take Effect Immediately**

In what's been a dramatic and confusing series of events regarding COVID-19 workplace standards, today, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board adopted [revisions to the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard](#) and the [Governor issued an Executive Order](#) ensuring the changes go into effect immediately.

### **KEY CHANGES IN THE REVISED EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD (ETS):**

**Face Coverings** – Employees who are fully vaccinated will no longer need to wear face coverings (except during outbreaks). Face coverings only need to be provided and worn by employees who are not fully vaccinated when indoors and in vehicles. However, the revised ETS specifically states that employers must allow fully vaccinated employees to wear face coverings without fear of retaliation.

*\* Face covering" includes surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.*

**Employers must Provide Respirators for Voluntary Use to the Unvaccinated** – Upon request, employers are required to provide "respirators" (N95 masks) for voluntary use to all employees who are not fully vaccinated and who are working indoors or in vehicles with more than one person.

**Documentation for "Fully Vaccinated"** – Employers will be required to "have documented" that a person is fully vaccinated.

**Physical Distancing** – The revised ETS eliminates physical distancing requirements (except during outbreaks).

**Post Exposure, Testing and Quarantine** – Fully vaccinated employees without symptoms do not need to be tested or quarantined after close contacts with COVID-19 cases. Employers must continue to ensure that COVID-19 testing is available at no cost during paid time to employees with COVID-19 symptoms who are not fully vaccinated and continue to meet existing quarantine and exclusion pay requirements. Cal/OSHA has released FAQs for the newly adopted changes that include complete guidance on what is changing, physical distancing, respirators, face coverings, vaccines, testing, and outbreaks. Cal/OSHA will continue to update the FAQs and will provide a training video on respirator use. The FAQs can be found [here](#).

**[UPDATED FACT SHEET PROVIDED BY Cal/OSHA](#)**



## **PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR MANAGING PRICE ESCALATION THROUGHOUT A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
1201 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. NW, SUITE 1200  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

June 2021

### **Introduction**

As recently discussed by a panel of construction industry leaders in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, material price escalation is the biggest concern facing the construction industry this year.<sup>1</sup> The prices of raw construction materials, particularly steel and lumber, have been rapidly increasing since early 2020. The Associated Builders and Contractors recently reported that iron and steel prices were up 15.6% from January of 2020 to January of 2021, and that softwood lumber prices had increased by as much as 73% during the same period. As a result, there has been a dramatic discrepancy between ultimate input costs and bid prices submitted by subcontractors for raw materials. That has led to significant economic risk, which has fallen disproportionately onto the shoulders of NECA members.

NECA members are struggling with this issue and the associated risk. The question addressed here is how can a NECA member attempt to manage this risk? The answer depends upon what phase is the project in; bidding, contract negotiation, or performance. Each phase requires different strategies to manage the risk.

While there is certainly no magic bullet, and members are encouraged to seek competent local legal counsel and financial advice, we trust that this white paper will assist with some general guidance and practical advice.

### **Outline of this White Paper:**

#### **I. The Bidding Phase**

#### **II. The Contract Negotiations Phase**

##### **A. The Escalation Clause**

##### **B. The Force Majeure Clause**

##### **C. The Equitable Adjustment Clause**

##### **D. Other Miscellaneous Contract Terms**

##### **1. Materials Pre-purchase and Storage**

##### **2. Allowance**

##### **3. Termination Rights**

#### **III. The Performance Phase**

#### **Conclusion**

Download this entire white paper [here.](#)



# NECA Learning Center

## **Electrical Contractor Essentials**

### **Register Now for July 27<sup>th</sup> Class**

*Over 60% of NECA members consist of small and medium contractors, making them the backbone to the electrical contracting industry.*

Designed specifically for NECA's small and medium-sized contractors, this program will bring in experts to discuss the essential elements of finance, insurance and risk, and legal issues that all contractors need to know. The first run of this class **sold out in record time, so don't delay!**

The financial section will focus on the components of financial statements, cash flow, profit fade, work in process schedules, cycle time, and the concept of margin versus markup.

Legal matters such as recommended clauses and provisions for product and service contracts, wage and hour changes, and best practices for internal investigations will be discussed.

Finally, we'll conclude with a discussion on common coverage concerns, risk management culture, best practices for fleet/driving, workers compensation, and bonding.

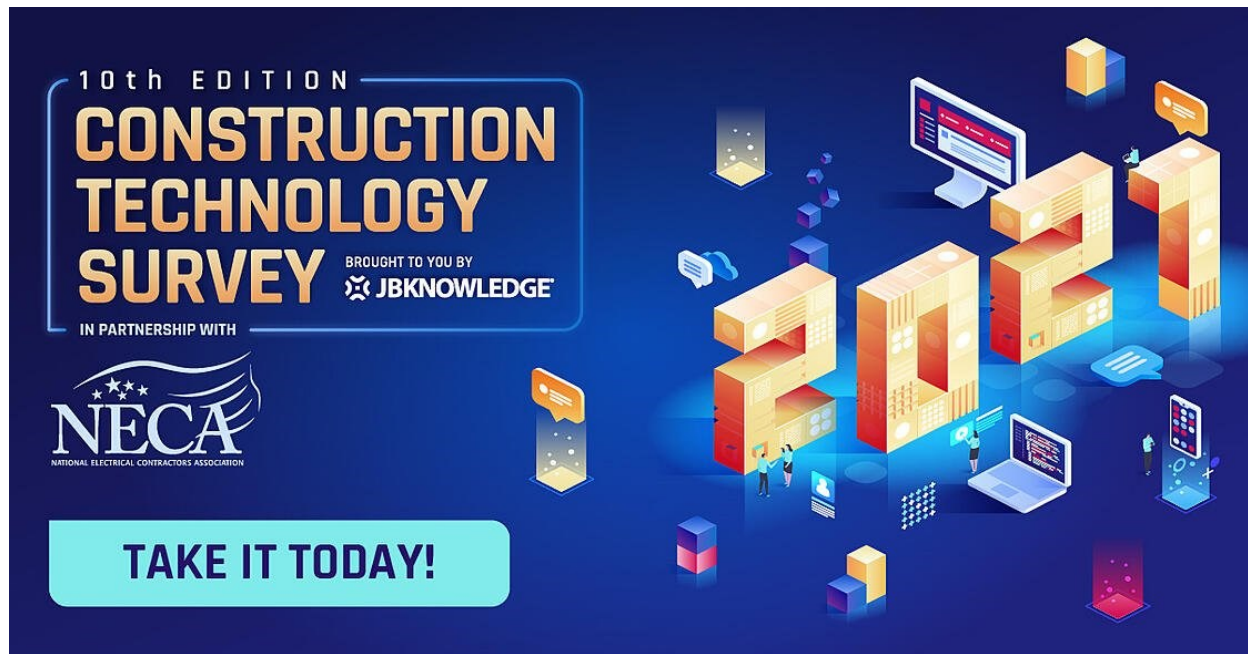
**Note: Participating attendees in this program will receive a \$99 credit  
for the NECA 2021 Convention in Nashville.**

**Electrical Contractor Essentials: Finance, Insurance, and Legal  
Tuesday, July 27, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET**

Log into the [NECA Website](#) and go to the [NECA Learning Center](#) to register, or contact the Chapter office via email: [sspare09@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sspare09@sbcglobal.net) or phone (925) 372-3222 for assistance.

Click [here](#) to see full course description.

# Take the 2021 Construction Technology Survey



NECA is proud to be working with JBKnowledge on the 10th Edition of the Construction Technology Survey. Take the survey and get the full results to learn the top construction tech trends in 2021.

This year's survey takes around 15 minutes to complete, depending on your role and experience. Thousands of builders around the world rely on the survey and resulting report to benchmark their company's technology usage and strategy ever year. By completing the survey, you'll be the first to receive a complimentary copy of the full results and report.

**[Take the Survey Now](#)**

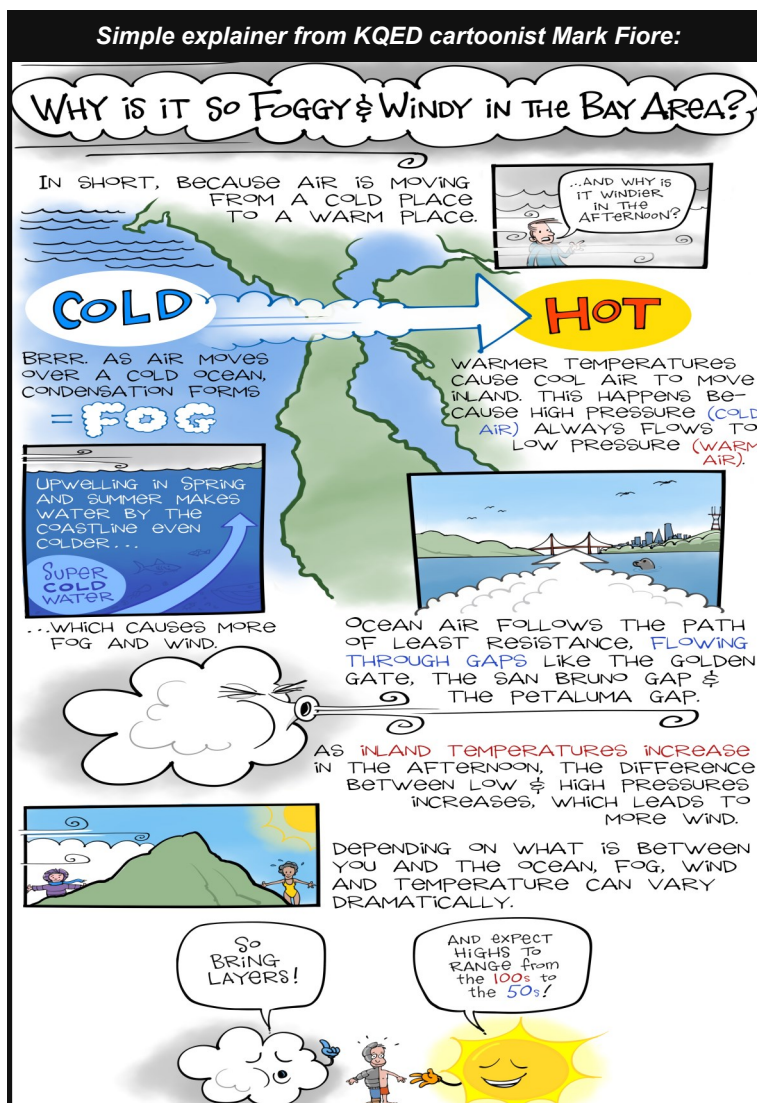
# Why San Francisco Gets So Windy & Foggy in the Summer

## Why it's windier in the afternoon

Air always moves from areas of high pressure to areas of low pressure.

- Hot air rises and is less dense, and is typically low pressure, while cold air sinks and is dense, and is typically higher pressure.
- Over the course of the day, the air inland heats up in California. But air remains cool over the ocean — where the water stays about the same temperature all day.
- The cold, high-pressure air from over the ocean rushes inland, toward the warm, lower pressure air.
- It takes the path of least resistance, squeezing through sea-level gaps in the mountains and ridges — the biggest of which is at the Golden Gate.
- This creates something known as the Bernoulli Effect. "Think about a garden hose. You have the water cranked up all the way and you have the flow coming out of it. Well, you put your thumb over it, you restrict it down, and all of a sudden you shoot 20 yards across the driveway," said Null. "The same thing happens if you compress air down to a smaller gap like through the Golden Gate or the San Bruno Gap."

That's why the winds are strongest on the days where it's hottest inland and still cool on the coast, when the temperature and pressure difference is the biggest.



## Why it's foggy in the summer

The temperature differences also explain why the Bay Area gets so much fog in the summer.

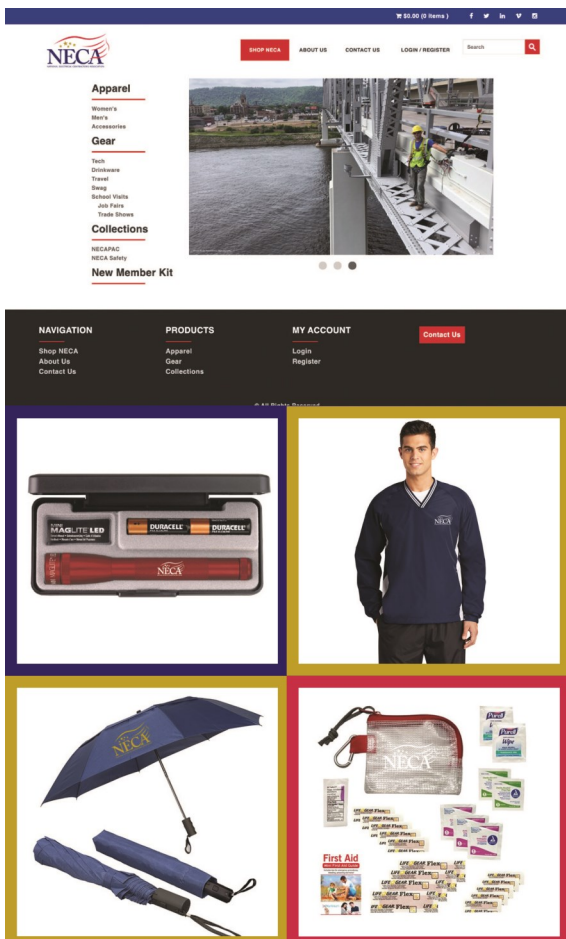
- There is a system of high pressure over the Pacific Ocean called [the North Pacific High](#). In the summer, it gets stronger, creating big clockwise winds over the ocean.
- Those winds push the surface water of the ocean away from the California coastline.
- Very cold water from deep in the ocean rises to the surface. This is called [upwelling](#).
- Something known as [the California Current](#) also brings cold water south from Alaska.
- When the sea breeze blows over this much colder water, condensation forms — creating fog.
- The fog comes inland in the summer for similar reasons as the wind: While it stays cool by the ocean, the high temperatures inland create lower pressure, and the fog is sucked in through gaps in the mountains, like the Golden Gate.

That's why we see picturesque summer fog rolling in past the Golden Gate Bridge in the afternoon.

"Nothing's going to move them out until the sun comes up the next morning and evaporates it," said Null.

Our topography also explains why one neighborhood can be foggy, like the Sunset, and another warm, like the area in Sausalito known as the Banana Belt. The hills and ridges direct the path of the fog and wind, creating these microclimates.

By Kelly O'Mara KQED



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*Presented by National Electrical Contractors Association*



**SYNERGY**  
eLinks

**[Declaration of Independence](#)**

**[UPDATE: COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards](#)**  
**[What Employers Need to Know About the Recommended Revisions](#)**

**[NECA LEGAL ALERT:](#)**  
**[Practical Advice for Managing Price Escalation Throughout a Construction Project](#)**



### **CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER**

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[www.ccneca.org](http://www.ccneca.org)

# July 2021

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2 <u>Off-Day</u> Inside Wireman Holiday	3
4	5 <u>Independence</u> <u>Day Observed</u> Inside Wireman and Sound	6	7	8	9 <u>Sound &amp; Com</u> <u>Apprentice</u> <u>Interviews</u> 9:00 a.m. Training Center	10
11	12	13	14	15 <u>NECA Chapter</u> Board: 4:30 p.m. Chapter: 6:00 p.m. Zio Fraedos	16 <u>Sound &amp; Com</u> <u>Apprentice</u> <u>Interviews</u> 9:00 a.m. Training Center	17
18	19	20 <u>District IX</u> <u>Council</u> 11:30 a.m. Zoom	21	22	23	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31