



OUR 54TH YEAR

CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER

MAY 2017

*Notice to Employers Signatory
to the Sound & Communication Agreement*

On November 30th of this year (2017), our Northern California Addendum to the Ninth District Sound and Communication Agreement with the IBEW will expire. The Chapters intend to negotiate a successor agreement that will be binding to all employers signed to a Letter of Assent. The process begins in late summer and should conclude by the end of November. The new agreement will become effective December 1, 2017.

As a practical matter, this is not an issue for most of our employers. However if you intend to terminate your relationship with the IBEW, you must do so in a timely manner by notifying the union of your intention. For employers signed to a Letter of Assent A, separate notifications must be sent to the Chapter and to the Local Union prior to the end of June. For employers signed to a Letter of Assent B, the notification to the Local Union must be sent prior to July 20, 2017. Since bargaining is a complicated legal process, an employer choosing to terminate should not do so without competent legal council.

If you have any items you would like addressed during negotiations, we encourage you to relay your concerns to either Mike Geller at the Chapter office or Randy Weber of Communication Service Company.

*Notice to Employers Utilizing the
CW/CE Market Advancement Addendum*

On June 1st of this year, there is an across the board wage increase for individuals working under the CW/CE Addendum to Inside Wiremen Agreements in the Bay Area. An increase of \$1.00 per hour applied to the Construction Electrician, Level 2 will also be applied proportionally to other classifications, much like apprentice/foreman classifications under the Inside Agreements. The new rate schedule can be viewed by clicking the link below. Keep in mind that wage increases for most of the classifications are also triggered by the individual achieving additional on-the-job work hours, just as apprentices have two ways to get wage increases in the NECA/IBEW system.

[New CE/CW Wage & Fringe Benefits Effective June 1, 2017](#)

**NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan
2018 Contribution Rate Increase for CW/CE Addendum**

After review of the financial projections and the current status of the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan (FMCP), the Board of Trustees has determined that a contribution increase in the amount of 5 percent is appropriate and will be implemented. New rate of \$5.75/hour will be effective January 1, 2018. The FMCP average increase since the Plan's inception has been 5 percent, well below the annual medical cost trends.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY ELECTRICAL WORKERS RETIREMENT TRUST

MANAGEMENT TRUSTEE POSITION

The Chapter is currently looking for an individual to replace Ray Trebino as Management Trustee on the Contra Costa County Electrical Workers Retirement Trust. It is a volunteer position, but it might be a great opportunity for a individual that is interested in learning more about investing and the types of considerations that go into managing a defined contribution pension plan.

Although ERISA imposes personal liability on the Trustees for decisions they make, we have three lines of defense that make this a remote possibility. First, we utilize some of the best minds in the business for our legal counsel, investment consulting, recordkeeping and administration. Second, we carry fiduciary insurance of \$5,000,000 in the unlikely event that there was some sort of problem. And third, the Chapter has an indemnification agreement for all of our Directors, Committee Members and Trustees that serve on industry-related functions.



Anyone interested in the position should contact Mike Geller at the Chapter office (925) 372-3222.

The entire industry joins us in thanking Ray for serving as a Trustee, attending all of the related meetings and making an important contribution over the past 28 years.

Thank you

A black pen is shown at the bottom right, with its tip pointing towards the "Thank you" text.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Making safer choices can help protect against workplace electrical accidents.



In celebration of Electrical Safety Month 2017, ESFI is excited to announce the launch of the fourth edition of its National Electrical Safety Month publication, Electrical Safety Illustrated. Included in the magazine are a number of topics that address workplace safety along with home safety.

Download your copy [here](#).



The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) is doing its part, as its annual safety conference takes place later in the month. The [2017 NECA Safety Professionals Conference](#), May 22 through 24, was specifically created for safety professionals working in today's electrical construction industry.

For the first time the NSPC will be held this year in Las Vegas, a city known for its vibrancy and flair that is sure to be a draw.

JOIN

The National Safety Stand-Down

To Prevent Falls in Construction

MAY 8-12, 2017

FATALITIES CAUSED BY FALLS FROM ELEVATION CONTINUE TO BE A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES, ACCOUNTING FOR 350 OF THE 937 CONSTRUCTION FATALITIES RECORDED IN 2015 (BLS DATA). THOSE DEATHS WERE PREVENTABLE. THE NATIONAL FALL PREVENTION STAND-DOWN RAISES FALL HAZARD AWARENESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN AN EFFORT TO STOP FALL FATALITIES AND INJURIES.

How to Conduct a Safety Stand-Down and [FAQ's](#)

Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a break to have a toolbox talk or another safety activity such as conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Managers are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their workplace anytime during the week of May 8-12, 2017. See [Suggestions to Prepare for a Successful "Stand-Down"](#) and [Highlights from the Past Stand-Downs](#). OSHA also hosts an Events page with events that are free and open to the public to help employers and employees find events in your area.

Resources for Employers and Employees

- Stand-Down Partner Materials
- Outreach Training Materials
- Fall Safety Videos

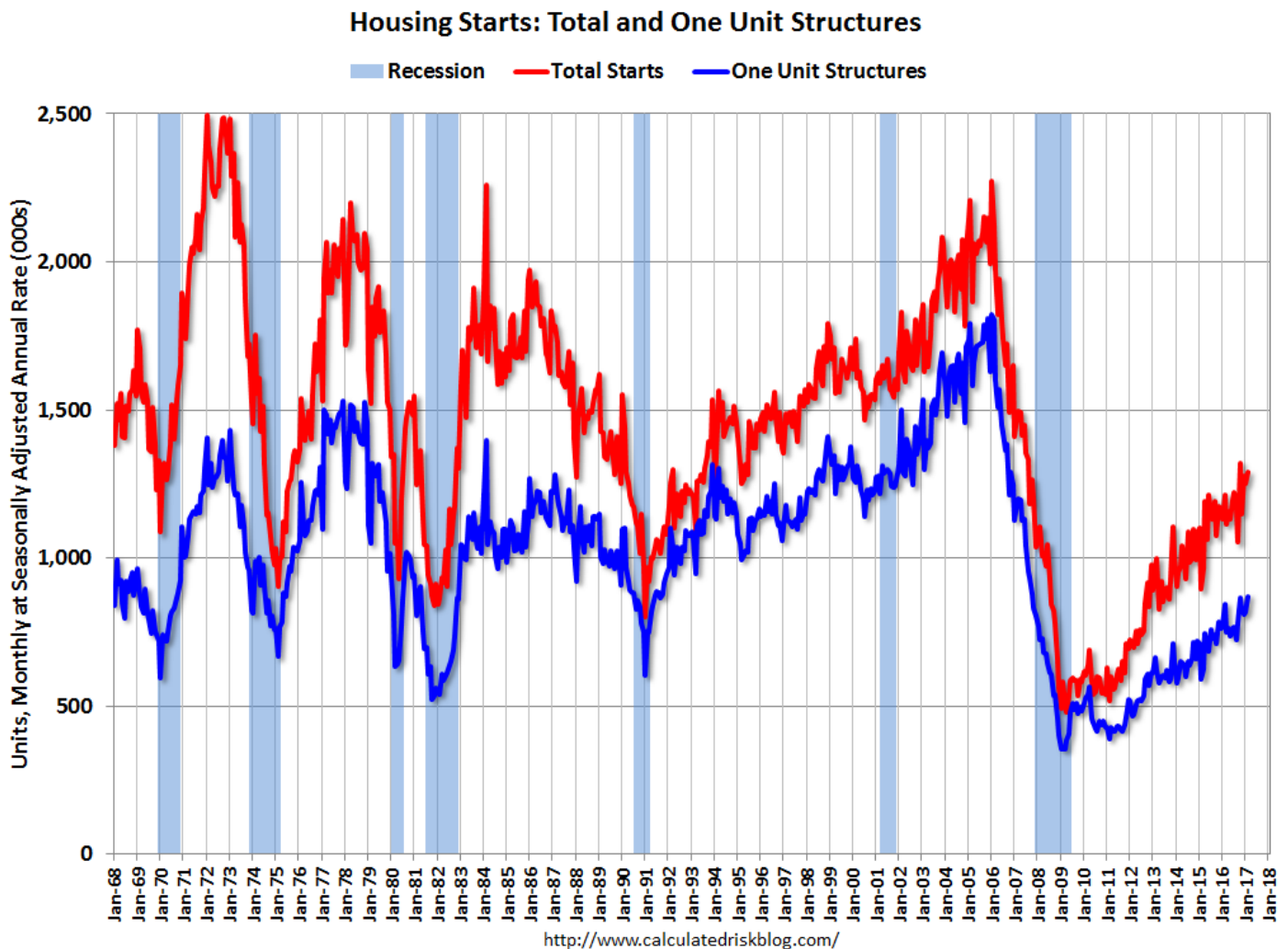


Download from::

<https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/resources.html>

CALCULATED RISK

Every picture tells a story, don't it?



“Calculated Risk” a Finance and Economic blog by Bill McBride.

If you want to subscribe yourself, see the link below.

Click [Here](#).



May 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 <u>App. Interviews</u> Martinez Training Center 12:15 p.m.	3	4 <u>App. Interviews</u> Martinez Training Center 12:15 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9 <u>App. Interviews</u> Martinez Training Center 12:15 p.m.	10	11 <u>App Interviews</u> Martinez Training Center 12:15 p.m.	12 <u>Retirement Trust Meeting</u> Martinez Training Center 10:00 a.m.	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 <u>App. Interviews</u> Martinez Training Center 12:15 p.m.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 <u>Industry Trust</u> TBA 11:45 a.m.	24	25	26 Off-Day	27
28	29	30	31			



CONTRA COSTA CHAPTER
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