

# "The Pipeline" NUCA OF THE CAROLINAS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

September 2022

It's hard to believe it's already September. As usual, the year is flying by us. I hope everyone's Summer was as good as the Hunter family. With that said, I am ready for FALL and some cooler temperatures. We have been lucky so far without even the hint of a hurricane coming our way. Let's continue to pray it stays that way. NUCA of the Carolinas has had a lot going on over the past couple of months and I'm excited to update you on what we've been up to.



In the last Pipeline, you will recall that the NUCA Open Golf Tournament was getting ready to take place. Thanks to everyone who came out to support this event and I trust you had a good time. I know the guys here at T.A. Loving Company that participated had a great time even though the rain got them before finishing up. Congrats to all the winners!

We recently had our August Safety & Risk Management Meeting in Charlotte where Greg Maready and Jason Walker did an outstanding job. Over 40 people attended this meeting – that's awesome participation! I have heard several comments about how good their presentation was on Worker Burnout and Mental Health. These meetings are a huge benefit our association offers to all its members. Thanks again Greg and Jason for all you do.

Our Young Leaders Group had their third gathering of the year after the S&RM Meeting in Charlotte at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. This too was a huge success. I hope we will all continue to support these Young Leaders and help them to grow this group. I know they are working on plans for a big event that I will let them tell you about below. Please make sure to check out their section in the Pipeline.

The Fall Conference is quickly approaching. I'm looking forward to a fun time with all of you at the Grove Park Inn October 6-9<sup>th</sup>. The event is completely sold out! I am especially looking forward to the Brewery Tour Friday and also the President's Dinner Saturday night. We have several surprises that I'm really excited about! It will surely be a big time for everyone attending.

The Fall Conference also marks the end of my term as your President. I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your support over this past year. It's been a pleasure working for you all and especially the new relationships I've developed while in this role. I feel like it's been a great year; we've made some good changes; and continue to move forward to make this organization the best it can be! I'd like to thank the Board for all your support – I could have done none of this without your backing. And last but certainly not least, a very special thank you goes out to Linda Goslee. She's the Captain that steers this ship and is an invaluable part of the team. She's the one that makes it all happen even though she's seldom in the spotlight. Thank you so much Linda!

**PAUL HUNTER/TA LOVING CO. —NUCA of the Carolinas, President**

# 2022 Officers and Board of Directors

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# 2022

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# Safety & Risk Management

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

What an Exciting time to be in Construction! The hot summer months are fading just as our daylight is getting shorter. All of us get a boost in our energy as the cool air of the Fall begins to set in. After long hot days of the summer months working in the Carolinas, we all get those beautiful cool Fall days to work and get some production done before the cold damp months of Winter set in.

As Fall is such an exciting time and a time we all look forward to, we are also reminded that "Falls in Construction" are the leading cause of deaths in our industry and something we all must make a priority to prevent on a daily basis. Never grow tired of telling everyone about the dangers of Falls in our industry and on our job sites. It takes all of us, but especially those of us who are Safety Professionals in this industry, to spread the word to everyone who takes on the important title of "Construction Professional". We are small in numbers (less than 6% of the world's workforce population work in Construction), but we have such a tremendous impact on the lives of everyone. Don't let a "Fall" on your job sites be another statistic. Stay on top of the work and your employees and help them understand the hazards with Falls and the means and methods to correct actions that can cause injuries.

Our NUCA Safety and Risk Committee has been very active and hard at work. We met in Charlotte at the Piedmont Natural Gas facility on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and had a great turnout. Some outstanding messages were delivered by our partners at NCDOL / OSHA and NC811. Our Roundtable discussion led by Vice Chair Jason Walker was well received as many in the group opened up about the challenges of "Burn Out" and shortages in our workforce. Thank you to all who shared experiences and guidance as we all navigate these important challenges in our industry. Also want to mention Board Member Roger Richards who also participated with me on an Industry Sub-Committee to help our NCDOL / OSHA Partners navigate and work on the new NC Standard related to Heat Illness in the workplace. The committee will be presenting an outstanding document to our Partners at NCDOL and thank them for allowing construction to have an active voice in this important standard for our industry. Heat Related Illness is 100 percent preventable. We can work in our environment here in the Carolinas and Be Safe! Our NUCA Members have been doing it for years! Let's take care of our folks and show the rest of the country how it's done – Safely!

Our next meeting in November is being planned in conjunction with other NUCA Events. More to come as the final preparations and times and locations will be announced. We hope to see everyone again in November as we all wind down our year and look forward to the Holidays!

Everyone please remember that our Safety and Risk Committee is an opportunity to network and help keep our industry strong and viable through Productive Safe Work! We are here for you!

***Stay healthy! Stay focused! Stay SAFE! Fall is right around the corner!***

**Greg Maready – NUCA Safety Committee Chairman**

Office phone: 919-734-8400 Ext. 231 Cell phone: 919-738-3694

Email: [gmaready@taloving.com](mailto:gmaready@taloving.com)

**TOOLBOX**  
Talks



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## **Stars In Safety: NUCA Announces First Platinum Winners Of New STAR Safety Program**

Safety is a vital component of every utility construction jobsite and employee activity. The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) is proud to announce the first two members who have completed the association's new safety program enhancing and recognizing this critical aspect of construction.

**BRS, Inc. of Richfield, North Carolina, and Concrete Cutting Systems Inc. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, are the first two construction companies to achieve the STAR Program's top Platinum status. Both are NUCA members.**

NUCA's new STAR (Safety, Training, Awareness and Recognition) Program provides a venue for every company in the utility construction industry to measure the effectiveness of their safety programs and recognize how these important company programs can be improved.

"Congratulations to our first two Platinum winners," said Kirk Blomgren, NUCA Safety Committee Chairman, and Vice-President of Safety and Quality of Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors. "These companies have shown strong dedication to creating and managing world class safety programs, and more importantly, honoring their commitment to ensure that their employees make it home safely when the working day is through."

The STAR Program categories of Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum allow companies to review their processes and evaluate their safety programs' strengths and potential areas of improvement in the important areas that provide a lasting path to safety success. Evaluation areas are Leadership, Records Management, Culture, and Procedures. Under these four core areas are subsections scored on a point system meeting specific guidelines that a company must meet for each category.

Platinum winners were chosen by the STAR review board based on their submissions following the STAR Program guidelines. The overall winner in the Platinum category for 2022 will be announced at the NUCA Safety/Damage Prevention Conference in Denver, Colorado, to be held November 17-18, 2022.

**NUCA's website ([www.nuca.com/nucastar](http://www.nuca.com/nucastar)) contains detailed information on NUCA STAR Program guidelines, as well as the application process for members and non-members. The STAR Program was unveiled in June 2022 during Trench Safety Month.**

All participants who attain one of the four levels of the STAR PROGRAM are recognized as companies who are sincere in their efforts to build effective programs and are to be commended for their participation in ensuring the safety of their employees.

The goal of this program is to help industry members master one of the most important functions of a successful company—safety—and to help ensure industry employees stay healthy and safe while they build our nation's vital core infrastructure projects.



Welcome to September! Football, cooler temps and fall planting! This means more homeowners on the phone to us so even more reason to use the apps available. Please note that the apps make it more convenient but they should not be used any different than a call. Meaning updates shouldn't happen unless the work is continuing. And of course tickets shouldn't be created until the work is permitted and taking place.

Volume is up at the center. August saw a 14% increase over the same time in 2021. We fully expect to see volume continue to climb as more and more fiber projects continue to push ticket loads. Communication projects... a perfect time to emphasize communication throughout your projects. The system can't do it all: boots on the ground need to talk to each other to coordinate effective timely markouts where work is taking place. I'll quit preaching now...

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing folks at the fall conference next month!

Louis Panzer  
 North Carolina 811  
 Cell: 336-707-1736  
 Fax: 336-299-1914  
 Website: [www.nc811.org](http://www.nc811.org)  
 Free Damage Prevention Training: [Pipes Plus](#)



South Carolina 811 hopes everyone had a fantastic summer and a happy 811 Day! We hosted a Family Fun Day for all employees, staff, board members, and their families at the beautiful Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia. We couldn't have asked for better weather, and a great time was had by all.



We are in the process of our triennial board reconstitution. Directors serve a term of three years and their companies/associations must be members in good standing of SC811. We greatly value our board members from a variety of stakeholder positions to help maximize SC811's effectiveness in preventing utility damages. If your company or association wishes to submit a nomination to serve on the next SC811 Board of Directors, your recommendation submittal must be provided to SC811 no later than September 30, 2022. More information and nomination forms can be found at our [Board Reconstitution webpage](#).

SC811's SUE event (Simulated Underground Emergency) is on track to be a huge success. Taking place on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the South Carolina Fire Academy in Columbia, this is a free invitation-only daylong education event from SC811 that will include an educational session, a simulated underground emergency, and of course, free lunch. Spots are still available for the afternoon educational sessions, so sign up today! Please visit our [SUE page at the SC811 website](#), or contact [publicawareness@sc811.com](mailto:publicawareness@sc811.com).

As expected, the amount of locate notices in South Carolina continues to increase yearly. Every month in 2022 has exceeded the ticket volume for the previous three years, peaking in March and June. The most work continues to occur in Charleston, Richland, Horry, Greenville and Anderson counties, with fiber/cable, electric, gas, and telephone work composing most of the projects.

	July	August
Incoming Calls	18,633	22,819
Total Tickets Received	106,870 (+20.2% vs. 2021)	124,062 (+29.3% vs. 2021)

Have a safe and happy start to your fall, and as always, DIG SAFE!

**Misty Wise – Executive Director**

South Carolina 811  
 (O) 803-451-7715  
[misty.wise@sc811.com](mailto:misty.wise@sc811.com) | [www.sc811.com](http://www.sc811.com)  
 Free Online Education: <https://sc811.com/education-outreach/online-training/>  
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# NUCA OF THE CAROLINAS YOUNG LEADERS

The youth are back at it! Thank you to all those who made it out to our August, NUCA of the Carolinas Young Leaders social event in Charlotte, NC, at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery & Biergarten. We had a great turnout with over 50 participants! Massive shoutout to Xylem for sponsoring the food, Sanders Utility Construction Co. Inc. for the private event space with our own wait staff, and Garney Construction for sponsoring the beverage tab at the event!

Members! We are always looking to add members, we created this group to help support the young leaders in our industry and give back to our community. If you or someone you know would like to join, please fill out this [form](#) so that we can get in contact with you.

Speaking of giving back to the community, we are currently organizing a fundraiser and build day for Habitat for Humanity of Wake County. We have set a goal of raising \$15,000 through sponsorships, t-shirt sales, and individual donations. We will have more information on sponsorships and the build day within the next couple of weeks.

If you haven't already done so, please go and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)!



## Virtual Safety Training

United Rentals offers virtual, instructor-led training for Excavation Safety, Confined Space Safety, OSHA10 and more. These distance learning classes are regularly available in English and Spanish on our open enrollment schedule, or as a private session just for your group. This is safety powered by productivity.

Visit the calendar of events to see upcoming sessions: [www.nuca.com/calendar\\_list.asp](http://www.nuca.com/calendar_list.asp)



## CREW LEADER TRAINING

Please contact

Linda Goslee if interested in  
a Crew Leader Training  
Class

[lgoslee@nucacarolinas.org](mailto:lgoslee@nucacarolinas.org)

## Fall Conference

**Thanks to everyone that  
has registered for the  
Fall Conference!**

**We look forward to seeing  
you there!**

# NUCA OPEN

SECOND PLACE TEAM



FIRST PLACE TEAM



*THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!*

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## Happy September Everyone!

Greetings to my fellow SEAA members! Tim Neubauer here with Exceed Safety's September Safety Newsletter. I hope that you all had a safe, enjoyable, and productive August!

Exceed Safety is a new consulting firm based in North Carolina but nationwide in service! We are limited by a non-compete in some areas, but please give us a call for your safety needs! If we can't do it, we know someone who can.

We are using grass roots networking to advertise our services so please follow us for more great safety information on all your social media platforms! Here is a link to follow my pages!

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/exceed-safety-llc/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/exceedsafetyllc>

Thank you for the opportunity to connect!

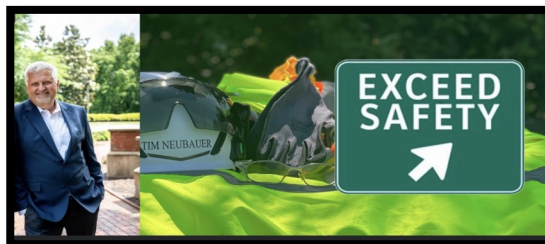
## Safety In September

Did you know that September is national safety month for the following safety items?

- National Preparedness Month
- National Recovery Month
- Fall Safety Campaign
- Suicide Prevention Month

National Preparedness Month – All about Legacy

The 2022 theme for National Preparedness Month is "A Lasting Legacy." Ready.gov states that: "The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family." During the month of September, you should focus on identifying potential disasters and emergencies that may occur in your area, then make a plan, get the entire family involved, and reach out to those in your community who may need help planning. Consider children, pets and the workplace when developing plans.



**Tim Neubauer, MS, CSP, President**  
**Exceed Safety**

**Tim@exceedsafetyllc.com**

**4242 Six Forks Rd, Suite 1550, Raleigh, NC 27609**

# 2022

## ***Safety Directors Forum 811 One Call Meeting Damage Prevention Meeting***

November 17–18  
The Westin Downtown Denver  
Denver, Colorado



*Sponsored by NUCA's 2022  
National Partners*

### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

NUCA Members: \$295

Non-Members: \$395

### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

The Westin Downtown Denver  
1672 Lawrence Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

*Registration includes participation in the  
Safety Directors Forum, and the 811 One Call /  
Damage Prevention meeting.*



## **ONE CONFERENCE FOR ALL**

NUCA's Safety Directors Forum offers the unique opportunity for safety management to network with other utility construction safety managers from across the country. Safety experts will present open-forum discussions on the most important and relevant safety information members sought by industry professionals.

Speakers for this year's event include:

- Dr. Katie Welfare — Construction Safety Research Alliance (CSRA)
- John Olaechea — Compliance Assistance Specialist (OSHA)
- Sharon Lipinski — CEO, Habit Mastery Consulting
- Perry Silvey — Safety Manager with BT Construction, Inc.
- Trenching and Excavation Safety Taskforce (TEST) Representative

The 811 One Call/Damage Prevention Meeting will again focus on damage prevention best practices.

For the most up-to-date list of industry speakers, session topics, discussion forums, and event registration, please visit:

[www.NUCA.com/sdf](http://www.NUCA.com/sdf)

# ASSOCIATION/INDUSTRY NEWS

**NUCA's Dig This! Podcast: Safety Programs To Improve Your Own Program**

You can find our podcasts at [nuca.com/podcast](https://nuca.com/podcast) or on all major podcast services. Follow us for more episodes in the coming months.

## Safety Directors Forum: Nov. 17-18 in Denver

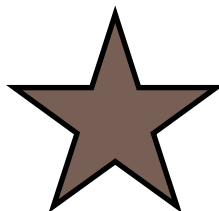
NUCA will be holding its combined Safety Directors Forum (SDF), 811 One Call Meeting, and Damage Prevention Forum in Denver, Colorado this fall. The two-day event on Nov. 17-18 will be held at the Westin Downtown Denver hotel and like last year's event, combine all three NUCA conferences for ease of participation. SDF offers company safety managers to network with other utility construction safety managers from across the country. And like last year's popular event, safety experts will present open-forum discussions on the most important and relevant safety information members need. The 811 One Call and Damage Prevention Forum will focus on damage prevention in the utility construction industry. NUCA hopes to see your safety professionals in Denver! A link for registration can be found at [nuca.com/sdf](https://nuca.com/sdf) or [here](#).

## Support The NUCA Foundation--And Get A Great Return on Your Unused Equipment

BigIron Auctions has partnered with the NUCA Foundation to host a Focus Auction Fundraiser on Sept. 21, 2022. Get a great return on the sale of your unused equipment through NUCA National Partner BigIron Auctions. BigIron will create your listing, market your equipment (listed and sold from your location), and collect buyer payments. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the NUCA Foundation for Education & Research. The deadline to list equipment is August 12, 2022. Contact BigIron at 1-800-937-3558 or [bigiron.com/selling](https://bigiron.com/selling).

## NUCA-STAR Company Safety Program Introduced

Safety is the utility construction industry's first priority. It is also the top priority of the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA). To help our members reach that goal, NUCA is introducing this month the NUCA Safety, Training, Awareness and Recognition (NUCA STAR) Program. The NUCA STAR Program was developed by the association's Safety Committee to help evaluate, update, and recognize a member company's safety program and practices. NUCA members who volunteer to participate should see lower incident rates and accidents on their jobsites and in their company facilities. We'll be releasing more details about this new program in the weeks ahead. More at [nuca.com/nucastar](https://nuca.com/nucastar).



## **NUCA's Train-the-Trainer: A New Look, A New Course, Aug. 23-26**

NUCA's Safety, Education & Training Dept. is pleased to announce that the venerable NUCA Train-the-Trainer (TTT) course has a fresh new look and a new focus. The updated Train-the-Trainer course emphasizes building instructors and teaching them the concepts of being an effective instructor while focusing on teaching the core NUCA Competent Person and NUCA Confined Space Courses. The 2022 TTT course will be offered in Coppell, Texas, on Aug. 23-26. If you would like to attend this course, be a NUCA Certified Instructor, or refresh your skills and training, please contact NUCA's training director Mike Flowers at [mike@nuca.com](mailto:mike@nuca.com).

## **NUCA Careers Website Open For Your Business: Post-Interview-Hire!**

NUCA Careers is a premier online career resource connecting employees to the utility construction and excavation industry's talented professionals. Take advantage of your NUCA membership by posting your open jobs with NUCA Careers and tap into a concentrated talent pool of industry professionals at a fraction of the cost of online or local ads. Search the database, complete your employer profile, and let the resumes come to you. Visit online our website [careers.nuca.com](http://careers.nuca.com) to learn more about this NUCA service.

## **New Trenchless Technology Manual Now Available**

Trenchless technology continues to expand at a very rapid rate, as more contractors recognize the efficiency and cost-savings that can be recognized in its usage. To help more of its members understand trenchless tech, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) released this spring its updated "Trenchless Construction and New Installation Methods" manual. The 148-page, full-color illustrated manual carefully addresses and explains the most common trenchless installation methods. This manual was written by construction industry experts, describing both the contractors' and manufacturers' perspective with the goal to educate and guide others in choosing the best subsurface method to completing a project. The new manual is available exclusively from NUCA, and can be ordered online for US\$99.95 plus shipping. More here: [nuca.com/trenchlessmanual](http://nuca.com/trenchlessmanual)

## **Test Drive NUCA-WINS & Leave Damage Incident Headaches Behind**

Interested NUCA members may receive time-limited user credentials to try out the NUCA WINS 2.1 app and learn firsthand how NUCA WINS helps subscribers reduce costs, eliminate paperwork, and defend against fraud and unwarranted utility strike and damage claims. Once you use NUCA WINS, you'll wonder how you managed your jobsites without it. And our partner Compatica announced this week that NUCA WINS subscription fees will remain unchanged until June 2023, so sign up today! To download the NUCA WINS Test Drive simply go to [www.NUCAWINS.com](http://www.NUCAWINS.com) and request your access. For more information, please contact Lauren Hensley at 703-358-9300 or visit [nucawins.com](http://nucawins.com).

## **What If You Could Spend Less For Your 401k Employee Benefits?**

A plan checkup is the most important tool for uncovering cost savings in your employee retirement plan. Because you're a NUCA member, you can now discover whether your existing 401(k) program still works for your benefits package. And a checkup can reveal when it's time to explore a change to a more cost-effective option. If you want to learn more about the NUCA Advantage 401k option today and how easy it is for your company to implement, contact NUCA Advantage program director Christopher Price at 954-625-1531 or by email. [NUCAAdvantage](http://NUCAAdvantage) is also online at [nucaadvantage.com](http://nucaadvantage.com).

# NUCA Advantage Is Now More Than Just Great Healthcare Options

Our Expanded NUCA Member Benefits Program Includes A Full Spectrum Of Solutions



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### BENEFITS COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS

Online resources to help your company meet your compliance obligations

Taking care of your employees just got easier and more cost-effective with the new and expanded NUCA Advantage benefits program, administered by Memberfy.

From HR compliance to employee communications, and into healthcare plans that provide great coverage for your employees, NUCA Advantage is a full spectrum of employee benefit solutions that give you the flexibility to work with your local insurance agencies and brokerage firms.

To find out more or to set up your NUCA member account, visit [NUCAAdvantage.com](https://NUCAAdvantage.com).

Please contact NUCA's membership department for more information about your many new NUCA Advantage benefits.

Phone: 703.358.9300 | Email: [nuca@nuca.com](mailto:nuca@nuca.com)

## New No-Cost NUCA Advantage Benefits

NUCA Advantage now includes the resources to help you manage compliance, administration, training, and employee benefits—and they're free!

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- OSHA Logs: Tracking & Reporting
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[NUCAAdvantage.com](https://NUCAAdvantage.com)

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## NUCA★STAR

SAFETY TRAINING AWARENESS RECOGNITION

All NUCA members want to send its workers home safely every night. By participating in the NUCA STAR program you can reach those safety goals and raise the bar on safety best practices in the utility construction industry over time.

The STAR Program has been developed as a tool to aid NUCA members in evaluating, updating, and recognizing their safety program and practices. Companies who volunteer to participate in the evaluation process should see lower incident rates and accidents across the board.

### KEY EVALUATION AREAS

Leadership + Culture + Procedures + Records & Database Management

For more information contact:  
Mike Flowers - Director of Safety, Education, & Training  
mike@nuca.com | #703.358.9300  
www.nuca.com/nucastar

www.nuca.com | #WeDigAmerica | #WeDigSafety

## NUCA MEMBER CATEGORIES

### WHICH NUCA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY IS RIGHT FOR YOUR COMPANY?

#### Contractor

Contractor members are at the heart of the NUCA mission. These companies are engaged in **bidding & performing**:

- Construction or rehabilitation of any/all types of utility systems
- Excavation
- Site Preparation

#### Specialty Contractor

Specialty Contractor members **employ & provide labor** that takes place on the job site. They **do not bid or perform utility construction, rehabilitation, or excavation work**. Examples of specialty contractors are:

- Paving contractors
- Surveying companies
- Traffic management/flagging companies
- Environmental contractors & more

#### Associate (Supplier)

Associate (supplier) members are companies involved with the utility construction/excavation industry but **do not provide labor or work on the job site** beyond the delivery of equipment or material. Supplies include:

- Equipment
- Materials
- Support services or software

#### Institutional

Institutional members are organizations that are involved in the utility construction/excavation industry. They include:

- Educational Institution (schools, universities)
- Government Agency (local, state, or federal)
- Associations, Non-profits

Whichever category, NUCA provides members and their employees in the utility and excavation industries with great value for their investment!