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News & Advocacy

10th Annual Trench Safety Stand Down Week, June 15-19

This June 15-19 is the tenth annual Trench Safety Stand Down (TSSD) and is again generously sponsored this year by NUCA National Partners National Trench Safety, Sunstate Equipment, United Rentals, and Contractor Solutions. This is your company's opportunity to talk directly to your employees and others about excavation safety. Companies can conduct a stand-down by taking a break to conduct a toolbox talk or other safety activity to draw attention to the specific hazards related to working in and around trenches/excavations.

TSSD is strongly supported by OSHA and the Trenching & Excavation Safety Taskforce (TEST). Every company or organization that holds a TSSD event will receive a certificate of participation, as well as hard-hat stickers for every employee who participated. We hope each NUCA member will be a part of our 10th annual TSSD program and promote June's "Trench Safety Month!" [More info here.](#)

June is Trench Safety Month! #TrenchSafetyMonth

June 2026 has been [declared "Trench Safety Month"](#) by NUCA, further highlighting our long-standing educational and safety program, the annual "Trench Safety Stand Down" week held this year on June 15-19. For the past ten years in June, NUCA has held the innovative Trench Safety Stand Down (TSSD) Week for the utility construction industry. Last year, more than 24,200

June 3, 2026

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Upcoming Events

June 15-19
Trench Safety
Stand Down
Nationwide

September 15-18
Safety & Damage
Prevention Conference
Louisville, KY

March 9-12, 2027
NUCA National
Convention
Miramar Beach, FL

Dozer Day
Nationwide

employees on 461 jobsites from 300 companies participated in this important national safety event. For more information about TSSD Week, visit nuca.com/events/tssd.

House Infrastructure Committee Advances BUILD America 250 Act

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has approved a major five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. H.R. 8870, formally known as the "Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development" for America's 250th Act (BUILD America 250 Act), authorizes approximately \$580 billion from FY2027 through FY2031 for federal highway projects.

The committee passed the bill early in the morning of May 22 by a strong bipartisan vote of 62-2, with three members not voting. Unlike the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the BUILD America 250 Act does not include advance appropriations. As a result, roughly \$106 billion of the proposed funding would be subject to the annual appropriations process. NUCA will be fighting every day for our share of those resources.

To help sustain the Highway Trust Fund, the bill requires states to impose new annual registration fees on electric vehicles (\$130) and plug-in hybrids (\$35), with biennial increases beginning in 2029. These fees are capped at \$150 and \$50 per year, respectively. The measures are projected to generate just under \$10 billion over the first five years and approximately \$29 billion over ten years.

This NUCA-supported legislation now heads to the full House for further consideration. [More here.](#)



U.S. Sen. Capito Receives "We Dig America" Award

NUCA awarded on May 19 its highest honor, [the "We Dig America" Award](#), to U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) in recognition of her outstanding leadership in advancing America's water infrastructure and supporting the utility construction industry.

"Senator Capito's tireless advocacy for robust water infrastructure investment has strengthened our national network and delivered real results for the men and women who build America's underground utility systems every day," said Zack Perconti, NUCA Chief Advocacy Officer.



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June

[Episode 37: Featuring
Keith McLaughlin](#)

[Episode 38: Featuring Ed
DeNeale \(TSSD\)](#)

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As Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Capito championed the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act. Enacted in 2021 as part of the IIJA, it provided the largest federal investment in water infrastructure in U.S. history, more than \$50 billion for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. She also secured major surface transportation funding in the IIJA to build these projects.

This award is presented to a non-NUCA member who has made a significant contribution to NUCA and America's underground utility construction and excavation industry.

Save the Date: NUCA Texas Chapter Relaunch Meeting & Reception – June 24

If you're a Texas contractor or supplier who wants to strengthen your business, enhance your safety program, or broaden your industry voice, this is an event you can't afford to miss. Join us as we relaunch the NUCA Texas Chapter and discover how the powerful NUCA national network can deliver new opportunities, advocacy, and resources to help your company and the new chapter thrive in Texas. You'll also participate in a focused safety stand-down and enjoy high-value networking with industry leaders and peers. NUCA National Chairman David Howell will be on hand, along with other NUCA leaders, to personally answer your questions and help build a shared vision for a stronger, more connected Texas chapter.

Date: Wednesday, June 24

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Location: Chicken N' Pickle,
5216 UTSA Blvd.,
San Antonio, TX 78249

This event is free, with food and drinks provided. Sponsorship opportunities are available for companies that want greater visibility and influence. For more information or to sponsor, contact George Hamilton at george@nuca.com or 703-890-7805. Register for the event here. [Register for the event here.](#)

Washington Summit: Making the Difference

NUCA's annual Washington Summit once again delivered real results for our association and our industry. Our 93 registered attendees discussed our key legislative issues in 105 meetings with House and Senate lawmakers and staffers. Summit again was perfectly timed, as the surface transportation bill supported by NUCA faced a committee vote that week, with our attendees urging their lawmakers to support this important legislation. To help attendees with their follow-up meetings, our 2026 Summit fact sheets will remain available at wedigamerica.org.

NUCA would like to thank our Chapters and our attendees for their time and their work to make this Summit a success! We will continue to build upon this strong and growing advocacy foundation in the May 2027 Washington Summit. Attendees can view and download the 2026 [Summit photos here](#).



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NUCA Government Affairs Monthly Update Webinar: June 23

The NUCA Government Affairs Committee will hold its monthly webinar on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 2:00pmET to update the membership on the progress of our legislative agenda. There will be updates on the 2026 surface transportation bill passed last month, the status of SRF reauthorization, permitting reform, a follow-up on Washington Summit, and other items of interest to our industry in this election year. [Register here](#).

The Latest NUCA Dig This! Podcasts:

These episodes, and all previous episodes are [available here](#) or from your favorite podcast service.

Ep. 38: Featuring Ed DeNeale, NUCA Vice President of Safety and Education

[This edition of NUCA's Dig This! Podcast](#) chats with NUCA's Ed DeNeale about this month's Trench Safety Stand Down. In this episode, Ed discusses TSSD, jobsite safety, how companies can participate, online resources available for your company's stand down, and more. (8:12)

Ep. 37: Featuring Keith McLaughlin, Executive Director, Colorado Water Resources

[In this edition](#), NUCA's Robert Baylor talks to Keith McLaughlin, executive director of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority about his state's program administering the Clean Water and Drinking Water state revolving funds. Keith describes how the money flows from Washington to Colorado communities and how utility contractors get involved in his state's infrastructure projects. (25:30)

Register Today: NUCA's Safety & Damage Prevention Conference

Don't miss your chance to join the industry's top safety professionals at the [NUCA Safety & Damage Prevention](#)

[Conference \(SDPC\)](#), Sept. 15-18, 2026, at the iconic Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

Immerse yourself in three powerful days of timely discussions designed to tackle the real challenges facing utility construction today. The agenda features critical sessions on transportation accidents, risk management, mental health in the workplace, the latest OSHA updates, emergency preparedness, rethinking trench safety (presented with NUCA National Partner United Rentals), a compelling panel on drugs in the industry, and a fresh 811 update.

SDPC is not all work: Connect and recharge during two dynamic networking events, including the prestigious STAR Award presentation at Churchill Downs. Whether you're looking to stay ahead of regulations, protect your team, or drive real improvement in damage prevention, this is the must-attend event of the year. [Register today](#) and secure your spot in Louisville!

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NUCA Benefits: Shipping Savings That Make a Real Impact

Through the NUCA UPS Savings Program, you have access to exclusive discounts, reliable delivery and enhanced shipping protection, all designed to help you save time and money. Last year, NUCA members collectively saved almost \$70,000 on shipping. Whether you're managing personal or small business shipments, our program ensures cost-effective, hassle-free shipping. Member-exclusive savings include:

- **65% off domestic next day/deferred**
- **42% off ground commercial/residential**
- **Up to 65% off international imports/exports**
- **Savings starting at 75% on LTL Freight shipping services**

Now is the perfect time to activate your NUCA member discounts. [Click here to enroll.](#)

Access Your NUCA Member Benefits In One Place

Members now have access to a very user-friendly NUCA Member Dashboard at my.nuca.com. This webpage is where you can update your member profile, manage your NUCA committees, register for NUCA events, access your benefits, and so much more! Individual member benefits are now enhanced to include a travel suite that

offers exclusive discounts on car rentals, hotels, and GE products. Plus, members can take advantage of discounts on auto, home, pet, renters, travel, and more! Please log into your [NUCA Member Dashboard by visiting my.nuca.com](#). For questions about logging in or your membership benefits, please contact Lauren Roget.

Toolbox Talks: Safety Tips When Using Trench Boxes

This toolbox talk provides critical safety guidelines for using trench boxes, emphasizing proper entry, exit, and maintenance to prevent cave-ins or crushing injuries. Holding this talk, especially during the 10th anniversary of NUCA's [Trench Safety Stand Down](#) (June 15-19), reinforces a culture of safety that protects workers' lives by ensuring everyone understands the vital roles of competent persons and approved equipment.: This week's TBT: [Basic Excavation Safety – Safety Tips When Using Trench Boxes](#)



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John Deere (Deere & Company) is a National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) charter member. John Deere stands as a global frontrunner in delivering advanced solutions in construction and forestry, embodying a legacy of quality, commitment, and innovation. With a product range that encompasses everything from compact to production class equipment, and extending its expertise to financial services and engine manufacturing, John Deere caters to a wide array of professional needs. The Construction & Forestry division of John Deere showcases an array of models, backed by a comprehensive global dealer network, designed strategically to meet the needs of customers. In addition, the Construction & Forestry division offers state-of-the-art construction and forestry technology solutions, making operations smarter, safer, and more sustainable. With a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, John Deere continues to drive innovation to meet the needs of professionals around the globe.

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