

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2026

For more information:
Robert Baylor, NUCA Director of Communications
703-890-7807, robert@nuca.com

June 2026 Is “Trench Safety Month”

Safety Education on Working Around Trenches and Excavations Highlight June Utility Construction Industry Events

(Fairfax, Va.) – June 2026 has been declared “Trench Safety Month” by the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), further highlighting its innovative educational and safety program, the annual “Trench Safety Stand Down” week to be held this year 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. This year’s event, sponsored by NUCA National Partners National Trench Safety, Sunstate Equipment Co./Trench Safety Rentals, Contractor Solutions, and United Rentals, will occur at hundreds of jobsites across the nation, reaching tens of thousands of our member’s valuable employees.

TSSD Week is a series of organized events held by NUCA and industry professionals – both member and non-member organizations – to emphasize the message of safety around jobsite trenches and excavations. The event week is strongly supported by OSHA and the Trenching and Excavation Safety Taskforce (TEST). TSSD Week is used by industry safety professionals to hold safety training, educational seminars, live demonstrations of trench rescues, and other activities to reinforce the message of trench safety.

Due to the enthusiastic success of NUCA’s trench safety program and last year’s Trench Safety Month, NUCA once again declared June to be “Trench Safety Month.” The association is devoting the entire month of June to getting the message out to the public and non-NUCA industry companies about the importance of employee safety when working underground or in and around trenches.

To grow this strong message of safety, the national association will be leveraging the safety messages of TSSD through NUCA’s social media channels, internal publications, and the construction trade press to emphasize several key safety ideas well known through our TSSD materials.

NUCA is also partnering this month with the Trenching Excavation Safety Taskforce (TEST) to share information about staying safe in and around excavations. The partnership will be promoting awareness of trench safety, the many training programs offered to industry members, and to help ensure employees stay safe while building our nation's vital core infrastructure projects.

Selecting June as Trench Safety Month is a natural tie-in to the lessons and demonstrations being completed at thousands of NUCA member jobsites during TSSD Week. In 2025, more than 24,200 industry employees and first responders at over 461 jobsites from 330 organizations took part in the stand down. Our industry's employees learned the importance of being safe around jobsite excavations and trenches from peers and experts alike.

NUCA and the utility construction industry members seek every measure possible to reduce risks on our jobsites, which we all know can be a dangerous place to work if someone is unaware of its hazards. National statistics on trench injuries and deaths peaked in 2022 but have since declined significantly due to heightened OSHA enforcement and industry efforts. OSHA reported 39 trench collapse deaths in 2022, falling to 15 in 2023, 13 in 2024, and 18 in 2025. These accidents are entirely preventable with thorough training in excavation safety procedures, proper protective systems, and strict adherence to OSHA standards.

Participation in Trench Safety Month and TSSD has become more important in recent years, as our industry remains engaged on hundreds of water, wastewater, broadband, electric, and highway projects financed by the federal 2021 infrastructure law supported by NUCA. Our industry is seeking tens of thousands of new employees to work on these projects—and every one of them will need safety training.

Time and time again, evidence shows that the key to significantly reducing the risks associated with our industry is employee training and reinforcement through safety events such as the TSSD Week.

###

About The National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA)

Founded in 1964, the National Utility Contractors Association represents over 2,000 U.S. utility and excavation contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who provide the materials and workforce to build and maintain our nation's intricate network of water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, and electric infrastructure. NUCA is found online at www.nuca.com, and can be followed on various social media platforms including X, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.