

# SAFETY ZONE NEWS

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November 11



November 26

## All Safety Policies Are Important

Being a safe employee includes practicing and following all the safety policies. Even the policies that seem insignificant.

Some employees don't see the importance of these policies which causes employees and even supervisors to disregard these safety practices. Employees and even supervisors may not be following them, informing new employees of them and they may not even enforce the practice of them.

A couple examples of safety practices that seem to be over looked from time to time pertain to our vehicle policy. Our parking policy and horn honking policy. Both of these are very simple

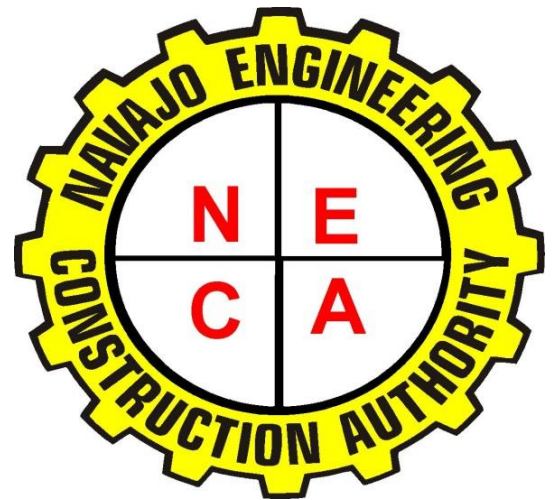
safety practices to follow.

Both of these policies lower the risk of us causing vehicle damage or injuring a person.

Because of the safety practice, we hardly see any damages caused by vehicles pulling out of a parking area.

We need to understand that all safety practices are important and they are there for a good reason. Everyone needs to follow our safety policies. Practice makes perfect.

Be Aware  
Be Safe  
Be Productive



## What to Look For

November 16-17, 2020  
Base 5 – OSHA 10 in Construction. 8am to 5pm. This is day and a half class. Employee must attend both days.

November 18, 2020 Base 5  
– Reasonable Suspicion Training for Supervisors. New supervisors are required to attend this class.

November 23, 2020 Base 5  
– First Aid/CPR/AED. 8am to 3pm.

November 24, 2020 Base 5  
– 8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher. 8am to 5pm.  
December 1, 2020 Base 5  
– 8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher. 8am to 5pm.

REMEMBER to wear your face mask while on duty.

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## NECA has worked 22 days without a Lost Time Injury

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### REACH 21: EXCELLENCE IN SAFETY AWARD

Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority Constructed the Conveyance Pipeline for the Reach 21 portion of the Cutter Lateral System as a Subcontractor to Jacobs. The pipeline consisted of 5,750 lineal feet of 24" PVC pipe, 14,500 lineal feet of 20" PVC pipe, 1-500,000-gallon water storage tank and concrete foundation. Throughout the project the NECA crews worked closely with the Jacobs staff to ensure the project was built with quality and safety as the top priority. The project logged over 350,000 man hours worked without a lost time incident. According to Jacobs statistics over 460 people went through their site orientation. In September, Jacobs field staff received the news that the Reach 21 project was selected to receive the Jacobs National Excellence in Safety Award. To commemorate the achievement, Jacobs has provided NECA with the medallions pictured to recognize our part in helping the project achieve this award. The NECA crews were supervised by the following individuals on the project: Jones John, Lance Atcitty, Kenny Kempton, Nelson Morris, Jarvis Tsosie & Henry Murphy. We sincerely appreciate the crew member's dedication to safety and making this project a success for NECA and Jacobs as well.

On October 27, 2020 the first water from the Cutter Lateral Water treatment plant was introduced to the DZ & Carson NTUA water distribution systems. This is the culmination of approximately 17 years of work by the USBOR to get the Cutter Lateral System constructed.



## Something to think about – Tacit Approval and Safety

Have you heard someone say, “That’s how it’s always been done.”? That is status quo. When we are in status quo, we look the other way. That is when we become tacit. The word tacit means “expressed without words or speech; implied or indicated but not actually expressed.” It can also be silent consent and acceptance. In our workplaces, tacit approval is given whenever a supervisor fails to speak out about existing conditions. Tacit approval leads everyone to assume that the status quo is acceptable, will be tolerated and allowed to continue.

Not only does tacit approval work against improving performance and safety, it makes it unlikely that safety standards or quality work will be met.

An example of tacit approval is when a supervisor doesn’t say anything about an employee who’s not following safety rules or wearing the proper PPE. What’s going to motivate the employee to wear the proper PPE in the future? The supervisor’s silence implies it’s okay to not follow safety rules, in this case not wear PPE properly. Other employees will see this and, before long, the worksite has turned into an unsafe environment.

Trying to re-institute the policy at this point requires a major retraining effort. To avoid this situation, the supervisor should be vocal to make corrections. It can be discussed during safety meetings and employee orientation. What is expected of the employee.

If you see unsafe acts, a timely comment can bring general awareness and serves to remind everyone of the policy.



Wear your masks



## SAFE MAN-HOUR AWARDS

NECA would like to recognize the following work crews. These crews have reached their goal of Safe Man-hours worked during the month of October.

Each member of these work crews will be receiving a Safety Award as a token of appreciation for working safe.

Thank you for working safe.

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Ray Begay  
Gene Laughlin





**Navajo Engineering &  
Construction Authority**  
One Uranium Blvd.  
P.O. Box 969  
Shiprock, NM 87420

**Phone** (505) 210-7070  
**Fax** (505) 210-7013



**Www.Navajo.Net**



## National Native American Heritage Month November 2020

In 1990, President George W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month to celebrate the diverse and rich culture, history, and traditions of Native people.

Thousands of years before Christopher Columbus and his crews landed their ships in the Bahamas, Native Americans had cultivated lives, communities, trade, boundaries and law. Our history overflows with a variety of diverse tribes, cultures, history and languages. Native Americans were known for being a proud people. We worked hard and relied on quick instinct. Today we are about 5 million strong, making up about 1.5% of the American population. November is a time to learn about and celebrate our stories and proud traditions and heritages.

### How to Observe:

- Read a Native American history book or novel that dives into the history and traditions of native people. Movies like Pocahontas tend to stretch the truth about Native American history. Books give a more realistic version.
- Play a game with your family. Native Americans used games to teach their children safety, strength, agility and sportsmanship. They were fun and had a purpose. Here are a few popular games in olden times that are still fun and challenging today. Good luck! Navajo Shoe Game, Lacrosse, Toe Toss Stick, The Hand Game, Butterfly Hide and Seek, Match Animal with their tracks, Guess the word before the Turtle hides in his shell, Hoop and darts game.
- Watch a movie or documentary film. There are a few made about Native Americans that aren't as over sensationalized and are definitely worth watching. Stream, buy or rent movies like *Navajo* (1952), *Reel Injun*, *Smoke Signals*, *Turquoise Rose*, *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee*, *Broken Rainbow* (1985) and *Winter in the Blood* to name a few.
- Learn about the true story of the first thanksgiving. What you were taught in elementary school isn't quite as accurate as we were led to believe. Modern day Thanksgiving may be a celebration of people coming together, eating turkey and watching American football, but that's not the whole story when it comes to the history of that day.
- Avoid the use of alcohol. Pre-Columbus Native Americans produced weak beers and other fermented beverages that were only used for ceremonial purposes. When various European colonist made large amounts of distilled alcohol and wine available to Native Americans, tribes had little time to develop social, legal and moral guidelines to regulate alcohol use. Today we suffer from extreme intoxication and alcohol related problems. Alcohol abuse is not a Native American tradition.