

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-CA Member Adapts During a Global Pandemic

NSPE-CA member Michael Rizza, P.E., was featured in a *PE* magazine cover story that addresses how PEs and their organizations are adjusting to a new reality brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.



NSPE members have put the ingenuity of professional engineers to bear on adapting their companies and work lives. For Rizza's firm, technology has proven critical to keeping projects moving. A mobile technology culture and a strong VPN have helped the company meet its project deadlines, says the principal of Rizza Engineering Inc.

Rizza Engineering has also adjusted its expectations, understanding that employees aren't going to be operating as efficiently at home with distractions. Michael Rizza lets staff know he empathizes; he's running the company from a card table in his bedroom with his wife and three children at the other end of the house. "It gets kind of loud," he says.

Since its launch in 2011, the company has encouraged flexibility and work-life balance for its staff. Employees could take time off for kids' baseball games and

then finish work after hours. That flexibility “has proven highly beneficial” in the time of coronavirus. To business owners who wonder if employees are really working their 40 hours, Rizza advises, “I’ve always taken the approach—if I have to have those thoughts, maybe I hired the wrong employee.”

[Read more on how Michael Rizza, P.E., and other NSPE members are adapting to a new reality.](#)

State COVID-19 Actions

Find all relevant COVID-19 actions in California related to licensure, small businesses, or essential services, including information on use of electronic/digital seals and signatures by professional engineers. A PDF version provides short summaries of both legislation and executive actions, lists of both, and hyperlinks for more details.

[Access the information on the NSPE-CA website.](#)

NSPE-CA Member Provides Expertise on Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity and control system cybersecurity are critical for protecting the public, yet do not receive nearly enough management attention and funding. Control systems need more policymaker attention. NSPE-CA member Joseph Weiss, P.E., identifies the major obstacle as a communications and culture gap between IT and engineering/system control.



Weiss makes recommendations on how to better coordinate efforts:

- Governance changes need to mandate that engineering management and technical staff participate in control system cybersecurity along with CIO/CISO and IT/OT networking staff;
- Recognize that the most dangerous control system cyberattacks are those that manipulate physics. This requires engineering-domain expertise to

identify and respond to these types of issues;

- Provide R&D funding for securing Level 0,1 devices and low-level sensor networks;
- Universities need to require introduction to computer science/cybersecurity for engineering students and computer science/computer security students to take an introductory course on engineering;
- Adequately address Level 0,1 devices in control system cybersecurity and process safety standards; and
- Coordinate control system cybersecurity standards and regulatory activities.

For more information, check out [Joseph Weiss, P.E.'s article](#) in the May/June issue of *PE Magazine*.

Get Ready for *Virtual PE Conference 2020* (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (**PECon**) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon 2020**;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;

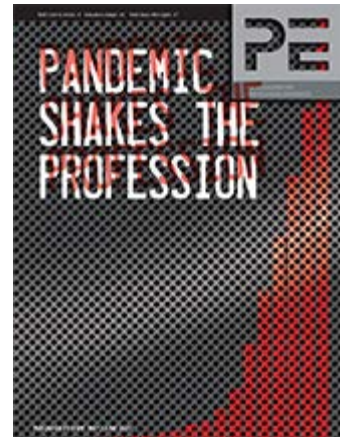
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#), as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars

PE[®] INSTITUTE

EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace - May 27](#)
- [Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - June 3](#)
- [Ethics in our Changing World - June 10](#)
- [Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - June 24](#)

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