

State News for NSPE Members

NCEES Monitors Pandemic as October Exams Near

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the October 2020 pencil-paper exam administration. All exam site locations are currently proceeding with reduced capacity restrictions in place. Changes to state and local requirements that further reduce capacities for groups and events may impact the number of examinees that are able to test at a specific site. NCEES will continue to monitor these changes between now and exam day.

NCEES is aware that capacity restrictions are preventing many examinees from being able to register for the October exam administration. In order to accommodate as many examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has moved up the transition to computer-based testing for the PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam (registration is open with appointments starting on December 1) and will offer a regional pencil-paper exam administration in January for PE Civil examinees.

Pomona to Host Regional Pencil-Paper PE Civil Exams in January

To accommodate as many pencil-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has added a regional exam administration in several locations on January 26, 2021, exclusively for PE Civil examinees. Registration for the regional PE Civil exam administration will open November 1, 2020, and close December 13, 2020, at 3 p.m. (EST).

The exam will be administered in **Pomona, CA** and the following cities: Phoenix, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Hartford, Connecticut; Orlando, Florida; Topeka, Kansas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Raleigh, North Carolina; Cleveland, Ohio; Houston, TX; and Seattle, Washington. Additional cities may be added before registration opens.

Examinees who are located outside of these states should check with their state licensing board prior to registering to determine their eligibility to test outside of their jurisdiction.

State Commission Allocates \$1.6 Billion for Transportation Projects

The California Transportation Commission recently allocated more than \$1.6 billion to fund a variety of transportation projects across the state, including about \$1.3 billion for State Highway Operation and Protection Program projects, according to the AASHTO Journal. This “fix-it-first” program developed by the California Department of Transportation is aimed at preserving the condition of the state highway system.

[Read more.](#)

Dams Need Repairs to Survive Future Major Flood

A recent UCLA study says that in the next 40 years, California could likely see a flood massive enough to cause nearly \$1 trillion of damage, force millions of people to evacuate, and leave houses in California's Central Valley 30 to 40 feet underwater. And the state is ill-prepared when it comes to infrastructure like dams that could prevent flooding.

[Listen to the KCRW-FM report.](#)

California Gets Share of \$1.2 Billion in Airport Infrastructure Grants

US Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao recently announced that more than \$1.2 billion in airport safety and infrastructure grants will be awarded through the Federal Aviation Administration to 405 airports in 50 states, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and other territories.

California projects that will receive grants include the Los Angeles International Airport

with \$17.5 million in funding, the Metropolitan Oakland International Airport with \$2.8 million in funding, the Monterey Regional Airport with \$1.9 million in funding, and the San Diego International Airport with \$18 million in funding. The total includes over \$1 billion from the Airport Improvement Program and \$152 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act grants to equal a 100% federal share. The grants will be used for a variety of critical infrastructure and safety projects. The projects include purchasing aircraft rescue and firefighting equipment,

constructing runways and taxiways, repairing runways and taxiways, installing aircraft lighting and signage, conducting airport master plan studies and installing airport perimeter fencing.

[Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Society Releases Policy Guide on Emerging Tech, Public Safety

A new NSPE policy guide has added the professional engineer's voice to the growing conversation around the safe development and deployment of emerging technologies. The guide's safety recommendations begin with the premise that the public's interests are best served when licensed professional engineers oversee the design, development, and/or deployment of emerging technologies.

NSPE's Emerging Technologies Task Force crafted the recommendations as a starting point for adopting standards that protect public safety and to provide guidelines to measure the safety readiness of technologies before they are deployed. The guide is intended for public policy decisionmakers, regulators, manufacturers, and others.

The Society strongly encourages the adoption of these recommendations and is available as a resource for information and drafting of regulations.

[Access the guide.](#)

Nominations Open for Federal Engineer of the Year Award

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#). Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until **October 31**.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 18, 2021, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Tickets will be available for sale in January and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available.

Timothy Sullivan, P.E., who has brought mechanical, civil, and environmental engineering expertise to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center in San Antonio, Texas, was named the 2020 FEYA winner. Sullivan developed the first-ever comprehensive execution guidebook to support \$604 million in nationwide

construction, and as part of that three-year project, he crafted a project risk management process to identify vulnerabilities of construction projects greater than \$5 million.

[Apply or nominate a worthy engineer today.](#)

Upcoming Webinars: Traffic Signals, Forensic Engineering, Communications Skills, Vintage Trolley Cars, Design Safety



NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

September 23

[The Physics of the Yellow Traffic Signal: ITE's First Recommended Practice](#)

The webinar will focus on the Institute of Transportation Engineers' first recommended practice for calculating the duration of the yellow traffic signal.

Presenter: Brian Ceccarelli, P.E.

September 30

[So, You Want to Launch a Forensic Engineering Consulting Practice](#)

Forensic engineers can operate as sole proprietorship, partnerships, professional corporations or be part of a multifaceted forensic engineering company or one of the many national forensic engineering investigation firms. This session addresses the opportunities for engineers interested in performing forensic engineering services as well as the issues they will need to address.

Presenters: John Certuse, P.E., Michael Leshner, P.E., James Petersen, P.E., and Samuel Sudler P.E., F.NSPE

October 7

[The Four Languages of Influence](#)

Improve your influence by customizing your interactions to four distinct

communication styles that will help make better connections.

Presenter: Roger Grannis

October 14

[Vintage/Heritage Trolley Cars in Transit Use: Past, Present, and Future](#)

The presentation will help attendees better understand the unique nature, challenges, and opportunities of vintage and heritage trolley cars in actual public transit use in the modern age, including vehicle engineering support and technical assistance, for these vehicles.

Presenter: Matthew Nawn, P.E., PMP

October 21

[Too Many Crashes at Your Roundabout? Learn Design Techniques to Optimize Safety](#)

This presentation will discuss how design safety principles affect how drivers receive and process information. For optimal safety and operations, the roundabout design must simplify decision-making and provide clear, concise information as to the correct way to drive the roundabout.

Presenter: Mark T. Johnson, P.E.

[Visit NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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