

State News for NSPE Members

Florida Condo Safety Checks May Face Difficulties

Worries abound in Florida that there are not enough engineers to do detailed inspections of condo units as is required by law. The regulation was passed in the aftermath of last year's tragedy at Champlain Towers South condominium in Surfside.

More than 900,000 units need to be inspected in a short amount of time, [according to floridarealtors.org](https://www.floridarealtors.org), and only about 50,000 engineers and architects – the only professionals authorized to do the inspections – are available. The inspections are due by the end of 2024, but each one can take up to two months. If issues are found, second inspections can be required.

State Representative Jason Pizzo said the state does not have enough engineers to complete the inspections. "Tell your nieces and daughters and sons to go study engineering," Pizzo told the Associated Press.

Insurance Companies Starting to Deny Coverage for Solar Panels

In Florida, [First Coast News reports](#), it is becoming increasingly common for insurance companies to drop customers if they put solar panels on their roofs, or if they participate in net metering. This practice is not happening in the rest of the country, only in Florida, the news outlet says.

Sometimes the panels are cited by insurance companies as being "high-risk," despite the fact that state authorities say an energy surge running through solar panels cannot damage a home.

Another theory about why coverage for solar is drying up is that a clause in some Florida Power and Light contracts says homeowners are responsible for damage from panels, said Doug Wiles, president of Herbie Wiles Insurance.

This lack of available homeowners' insurance could be causing some to avoid having solar panels installed. The state is expected to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

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

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon22 in Philadelphia.

NSPE Award

Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE, received the Society's most prestigious award presented to a professional engineer who has been committed to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Harclerode, the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, has been an active member of NSPE and the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since 1980. He is also a past chair of the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers.



Engineering Education Excellence Award

Mohamed El-Sayed, Ph.D., P.E., a professor of mechanical engineering at Eastern Michigan University, received this award for licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. El-Sayed has vast technical and industrial expertise in the areas of vehicle realization, quality, reliability, durability, and optimization. He has also worked in various positions in the automotive industry. He has several granted patents, one authored book, and over a hundred technical and educational publications.



New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career.

Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM, is employed with Freese and Nichols in the firm's stormwater group. Throughout her career, Ahumada has specialized in stormwater and floodplain management, as well as supporting public

entities with long-term planning, and the analysis and mitigation of flooding issues. She is an active member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and serves as the chapter's president.



Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA, is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky and oversees the Engineering, Mass Transit, and Safety/Training divisions. For the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, he serves as vice president for the Western Region and is president of the Green River Chapter.



Fact Check: The Myths of Anti-Licensing

Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. The NSPE-led [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#) takes a closer look at those myths and sets the record straight.

Myth #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.

Fact: Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensors are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

Myth #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.

Fact: Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and

create business insurance and liability implications.

Myth #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.

Fact: Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

Myth #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.

Fact: Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.

[Read more on the truth about professional licensing.](#)

EJCDC Documents: 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released the [2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series](#). This series is completely new to EJCDC and is intended for projects in which the owner's primary representative during construction will be the Construction Manager as Advisor (CM).



The CM as Advisor Series is an alternative to the use of the EJCDC Construction Series, in which the engineer that prepared the design subsequently serves as the owner's construction contract administrator. The CM as Advisor Series is comprised of contract documents, administrative forms, bonds, bidding, and procurement documents.

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22314**