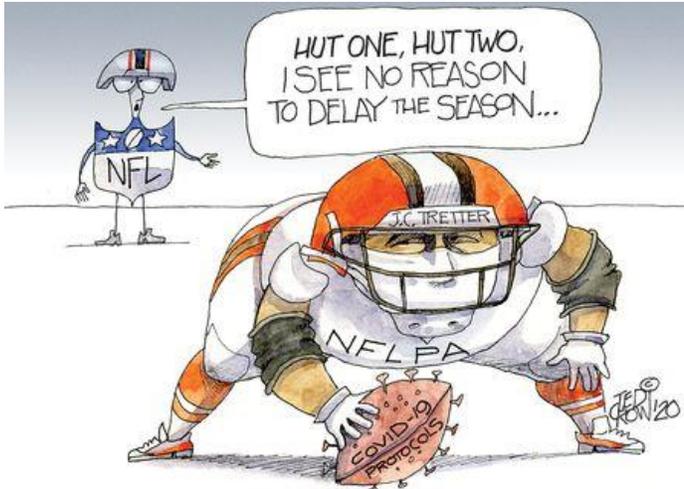




# MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



**AUGUST 10, 2020**

**NECA 2020 LIVE – 10/5 – 10/7**

## **NECA LIVE 2020 – DON'T MISS OUT ON KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM FORMER COMMANDING GENERAL OF U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND, DR. NADJA WEST!**

If you haven't already registered for NECA 2020 Live, what are you waiting for? In addition to cutting edge technology to deliver all the benefits of the NECA Convention – including a tradeshow floor, and extensive educational opportunities. We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Nadja West will be joining us for our General Session on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. A trailblazer in female leadership, Retired Lt. Gen. Nadja West will share her story of grit, perseverance, strength, and breaking boundaries, even when faced with adversity. She is known for taking audiences on her journey and motivates them to overcome challenges with self-belief, bravery, and balance. With more than 20 years of experience in executive leadership, crisis management, and disaster response—including her instrumental role in crafting the U.S. Department of Defense medical response to the Ebola crisis—West speaks expertly on leadership tactics to effectively lead teams through times of uncertainty and crisis.

For more information or to register click [here](#).



## **SHARP DROP IN VALUE FOR SEATTLE AREA CONSTRUCTION STARTS DURING FIRST HALF OF 2020 – REPORT SHOWS**

The value of all construction starts in the Seattle tri-county area declined 31% to \$4 billion during the first six months of 2020, according to Dodge Data & Analytics' latest report.

However, in June – after full construction activity was allowed to resume in most of the region – the value of overall starts increased 10%, with nonresidential projects' values leaping 80%. Nonresidential includes all commercial building types plus education, health care, religious and government buildings.

Excluding institutional projects like educational facilities and hospitals, the Seattle area saw commercial and multifamily starts fall 26% to \$1.6 billion. Nationally, Dodge reported starts plunged 22% below the first half of 2019, with only warehouse construction posting a very small gain.

Even before the pandemic, construction activity in the Seattle region was waning, with the total value of starts down 17% and 36% in January and February, respectively.

The brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt in April when the value of all starts fell 68%, with nonresidential declining 86%.

## **FREE MARKETS DESTROY: WASHINGTON IS FIRST STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO HEAR GROUNDBREAKING NEW MESSAGE**

The Washington Policy Center (WPC), one of the nation's leading state-based, independent research organizations, announced a bold, inspirational, and first-of-its-kind campaign to highlight the value of the free market. “Free Markets Destroy” will focus on the power of the marketplace to destroy society's worst problems and continually improve our lives.

WPC has teamed up with the creative studio Emergent Order in Austin, Texas for the \$1 million effort. The launch on social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram is hoping to reach millions of Washingtonians, specifically the youngest generations.

“We have a growing concern – young Americans are warming to the idea of socialism and are deeply skeptical of our free enterprise system,” explained WPC President Dann Mead Smith. “But they are also the first to pursue new technology, new cures, and all of the things the free market system provides. We know that the Free Market Destroys the things everyone in society hates – and replaces them with something even better.”

Washington Policy Center focuses on eight key research areas: Agriculture, Education, Environment, Government Reform, Health Care, Small Business, Transportation and Worker Rights.

## **TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE FOR VIRTUAL BASIC TRAINEE CLASSES**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on availability of basic classroom training for electrical trainees, approved classroom training providers may temporarily provide their classes through an internet-based instruction platform under the following conditions:

- Trainees and instructors must continuously interact in real time by live audio and video during the entire period of instruction and by live video during competency examinations;

Providers must:

a. Allow department oversight by sending an invitation to [ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov](mailto:ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov) for every internet trainee class. Invitations must include: a hyperlink and any password needed to join the class, L&I issued course approval number, class agenda (name of class and instructor, date of class, starting time, ending time, breaks, etc.); and

- b. Limit class size to fifteen students or less; and
- c. Verify student identity using government issued photo identification.

This temporary allowance will be in effect until normal classroom education can safely resume in consultation with the Electrical Board and industry stakeholders.

**REMINDER – OUTDOOR HEAT EXPOSURE RULE APPLIES FROM MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Outdoor Heat Exposure applies to all employers with employees performing work in an outdoor environment. The Labor and Industries (L&I) Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-62-095 requires the Outdoor Heat Exposure Requirements to be in effect from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is only enforceable when employees are exposed to outdoor heat at or above the applicable temperature listed in the following table:

Outdoor Temperature Action Levels

Non-breathing clothes including vapor barrier clothing or PPE such as chemical resistant suits.	52°
Double-layer woven clothes including coveralls, jackets and sweatshirts.	77°
All other clothing.	89°

To determine which temperature applies to each worksite, select the temperature associated with the general type of clothing or personal protective equipment (PPE) each employee is required to wear. This WAC Standard doesn’t apply to incidental exposure, which exists when an employee is not required to perform a work activity outdoors for more than 15 minutes in any 60-minute period. This exception may be applied every hour during the work shift. Training must be provided to all employees and supervisors prior to outdoor work which exceeds a temperature listed in the table above. Employers are required to maintain an outdoor heat exposure program in their written accident prevention program. More information can be found on L&I website by clicking [here](#). If you need a sample Heat Stress Program, please contact NECA Director of Safety, Justin Thayer at [justin@necaseattle.org](mailto:justin@necaseattle.org).

**ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1846** – After a decade of debate about how best to spend a bequest left to America from an obscure English scientist, President James K. Polk signs the Smithsonian Institution Act into law on this day in 1846.

In 1829, James Smithson died in Italy, leaving behind a will with a peculiar footnote. In the event that his only nephew died without any heirs, Smithson decreed that the whole of his estate would go to “the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.” Smithson’s curious bequest to a country that he had never visited aroused significant attention on both sides of the Atlantic.

Today, the Smithsonian is composed of several museums and galleries including the recently opened National Museum of African American History and Culture, nine research facilities throughout the United States and the world, and the national zoo. Besides the original Smithsonian Institution Building, popularly known as the “Castle,” visitors to Washington, D.C., tour the National Museum of Natural History, which houses the natural science collections, the National Zoological Park, and the National Portrait Gallery. The National

Museum of American History houses the original Star-Spangled Banner and other artifacts of U.S. history. The National Air and Space Museum has the distinction of being the most visited museum in the world, exhibiting such marvels of aviation and space history as the Wright brothers' plane and *Freedom 7*, the space capsule that took the first American into space. John Smithson, the Smithsonian Institution's great benefactor, is interred in a tomb in the Smithsonian Building.

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"It's very nice to be here on the shores of Lake Washington. All of Seattle is going to congregate around these hallowed shores and celebrate Summer, rooster tails... Hydroplanes!"

Seattle Legend, Pat O'Day

1934-2020

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As of Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, there are 248 JW on Book 1 and 128 JW on Book 2. There are 5 unfilled Commercial, 9 unfilled S&C and 0 unfilled Residential Apprentice requests. 16 Commercial bootcamp graduates will be available on August 18<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup>, and 15 Sound and Communication bootcamp graduates will be available August 11<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>.