



RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS & ASSOCIATES

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SAFETY NEWS...

Bad Weather Driving Reminder

Driving during bad weather when road conditions are changing requires every driver's full attention. Rain and snow can make the roads slick, and fog, rain, and snow can reduce visibility. Drivers should slow down and allow more room to stop during bad weather. This is also a time to watch out for the other guy, who is likely to make stupid and careless mistakes.

To reduce the possibility of vehicle accidents during bad weather, drivers should:

- Inspect their vehicles before departing. Check tires, lights, turn signals, wipers, windows, defroster, mirrors and loads. Report defects to the mechanic and have them repaired before you go on the road
- Keep windows and lights clean and clear of dirt, snow, and ice.
- Use wipers, defrosters, and headlights to improve your visibility day or night. Headlights also help other drivers see you.
- Avoid distractions, such as cell phones or radios.
- Watch out for puddles and icy patches that could cause hydroplaning or skids. Do not attempt to drive through deep puddles. You could get stuck or wet the brakes.
- Avoid quick or sudden stops or turns. Increase your stopping distance.
- Wear your seat belt at all times and require passengers to do the same.

There is no time for mistakes during bad weather. Bad weather affects all drivers. You must stay alert. Watch out for the other drivers, too. Drive defensively!

RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS & ASSOCIATES



RIICA NEWS

"UNDERGROUND & IN THE TRENCHES"

VOLUME II ISSUE III

WINTER 2009

Huge FY 2010 SRF Appropriations Signed into Law

Could This Mean Light at the end of the Tunnel?

Washington, DC- As reported since the beginning of the 111th Congress, although efforts by industry related coalitions and associations have addressed a broad range of water infrastructure initiatives, a key priority has been to increase annual funding for EPA's State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs in order to inject as much capital into the struggling underground construction market.

We're pleased to announce that, in addition to the billions of dollars in

ARRA funding for the SRF expected to initiate water and sewer projects this year and next, general SRF appropriations are receiving huge increases in FY2010.

In fact, passage of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations conference report (H.R. 2996), which was signed into law on October 30, includes \$2.1 billion and \$1.38 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs, respectfully. On top of that, another \$157

million is provided for grants to communities for combined sewer overflow improvements. The \$3.6 billion for water and wastewater infrastructure in next year's SRF appropriations coupled with the \$6 billion in ARRA funding could mean that close to \$10 billion in water infrastructure investment will be in the works by the end of 2010.

Finally...maybe good news?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIG SAFE.... 3
25 Years Ago

2010 Legislative Session coming soon!

P.J. Keating 5
Hosts "Controlled Blast" for RIICA

DEATH TAX 6
REFORM BILL PASSES U.S. HOUSE



2010 7
Clip & Save Calendar of Events

Safety Toolbox

PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS

RI DMV Places Age 70 Restrictions on Road Tests- Challenge Looming?

Providence, RI- The RI DMV has instituted new rules on drivers reaching the age of 70 will now be required to take a road test every two years at time of renewal. As originally reported, state officials had indicated that if you were at the age of 70 and over, you were able to obtain written doctor's authorization as to your ability to drive and submit those documents to DMV at time of renewals thereby avoiding a road test. We have learned that RIDMV officials are not allowing the procedure outlined above and are enforcing mandatory road tests. If you fail, you would be required to pay another \$50 fee to retake the test. RIICA and UCARI are working jointly along with Terry Martiesian, our lobbyist to resolve the issue even if it is done legislatively.

RIICA ANNUAL DINNER JANUARY 28, 2010

West Warwick, RI- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**..... RIICA will be holding our 16th Annual General Membership Dinner on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the West Valley Inn, West Warwick, RI.

Our special guest speaker is **General Treasurer and candidate for Governor, Frank Caprio.** The annual event will be offering sponsorships and will also be holding a silent auction in support for our association. Funds raised from this event are used to supplement member benefit programs. A separate mailing will be sent out shortly asking for sponsorships and auction items for the silent auction. The event begins at 5:30 pm with dinner to follow. **Tickets remain at \$ 35.00 per person** and are available through and Board member or the RIICA office.

**HIT A UTILITY LINE THAT WAS NOT PROPERLY MARKED??
FILE A NOTICE OF VIOLATION WITH RIPUC**

Providence, RI- **TO ALL CONTRACTORS.....** If you locate or hit a line that was not marked by the utility providers, you must file a Notice of Violation with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission immediately. This course of action is needed in order for contractors to let the RI Public Utilities Commission and more importantly, the utility providers know that as utility contractors, we are taking the proper and necessary precautions when excavating. In addition, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) along with Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is currently asking contractors to notify their respective chapters of violations and/or incidents related to Dig Safe. This information will then be used in future rule-making by federal and state agencies.

To obtain a copy of the **Notice of Violations Form**, visit the RIICA website at www.riica.org and go to the "Links and Resources" tab.

"As RIICA moves forward into a new era, we look to the support of our members and potential new members to help chart that new course"

Bob Lafleur
Executive Director

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS....

- **Brendan S. Sherman**
Wakefield, RI
- **Donna Defusco**
Coastline Business Services
Jamestown, RI
- **Gregory Nunes**
Coventry, RI

Help Us Build RIICA....Bring a new member on board to help our industry...

REMEMBER...

There is power in numbers!

**RIICA LEGISLATIVE
and
NEWS ALERTS**

....If you would like to receive up to date legislative and news alerts by email, all you have to do is email RIICA at riica1980@aol.com

and authorize your agreement to accept email from the RIICA Office.



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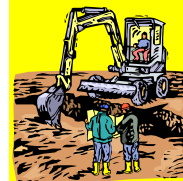
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**RIICA
2010**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 7 Board Meeting
- January 28Annual Membership Meeting
West Valley Inn, West Warwick, RI
- February 11 Board Meeting
- March 11 Board Meeting
- March 25..... General Meeting
- April 8 Board Meeting
- April 22 General Meeting
- May 13 Board Meeting
- May 27 Annual Cookout
Rocky Hill Grange
East Greenwich, RI
- June 10 Board Meeting
- July 8..... Board Meeting
- August 1 Annual Scholarship Event
- August 12 Board Meeting
- September 9 Board Meeting
- October 14 Board Meeting
- October 28 General Meeting
- November 11 Board Meeting

Notices on Topics & Locations for General Meetings will be mailed separately!

RIICA

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Bob Lafleur – Executive Director

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William Delmage

President
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East Providence, RI 02915
Phone - 401-435-4239
Fax - 401-435-5060



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Jim King

Benefits Representative
405 Kilvert Street – Suite D
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone - 401-921-4460 x15
Fax - 401-921-4464

DEATH TAX "REFORM" BILL PASSES HOUSE

Washington, DC– The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to approve the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009 (HR 4154) on a 225 - 200 vote, following the defeat of a last-ditch amendment proposed by Republicans calling for the complete repeal of the death tax.

This legislation was put on the "fast track" in hopes of getting a permanent resolution to the federal estate tax ("death tax") before the beginning of 2010, when the death tax is scheduled to be fully repealed. A permanent fix is needed before 2011, when the death tax is set to return in full force, with a 55% top rate and an inadequate \$1 million exemption. The death tax has long threatened the viability of American family businesses by taxing the assets of the principle following his or her passing.

However, this legislation falls far short of an equitable solution; providing only a \$3.5 million individual exemption while imposing an unfair 45 percent estate tax rate. This does not provide adequate protection for many small businesses. To add insult to injury, the exemption is not indexed for inflation, meaning that protection from the estate tax will erode each year. There is word that there is a coalition working to advance a proposal in the Senate which would lower the top rate significantly (possibly to 35%), and raise the exemption to \$5 million and index it for inflation.



DIG SAFE LAW.... THE BEGINNING, HISTORY IS MADE- 25 YEARS AGO 2009 ...HISTORY IS MADE AGAIN!!!



Dig Safe....
Left, Dave Burnham, RIICA; fourth from left, Henry Sherlock, CIRI; sixth from left, UCARI's Board member Ted Bragger. Behind former Governor Garrahy is UCARI's former Board member Michael Favicchio. Standing to the right of Favicchio is then-Attorney General Dennis Roberts; far right, then-General Treasurer Anthony Solomon
How time flies !!!!

CLIP & SAVE

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**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
COMING SOON !!**

Warwick, RI— As the 2010 legislative session is fast approaching, RIICA President Steve Gianlorenzo is reminding members to let the association know of any issues and/or concerns that you feel need to be addressed through our agenda. “ This is one of RIICA’s member benefits- working for you at the State House,” Gianlorenzo said.

Gianlorenzo stressed that 2009 was one of the most successful year for RIICA and all of the underground construction industry with the passage of the first positive changes in RI’s Dig Safe Laws in over 25 years. “ We still have much to do and look forward to your participation in this very important process” Gianlorenzo said. Anyone wishing to assist RIICA and our Legislative Committee about potential legislative initiatives is asked to call RIICA Executive Director Bob Lafleur or email RIICA at riica1980@aol.com.



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Visit call811.com for more information.

**P.J. KEATING INC.
Hosts “ A Controlled Blast” Field Trip**

LOCATION: Cranston, RI Quarry

AUDIENCE: RIICA members, State officials



Left,
Three, two, one....



Photos by
Henry
DiLibero

Right,
IGNITION !!

Right, Blast
wall falls to
bottom of
quarry



Left,
The smoke
clears



Cranston, RI— P. J. Keating hosted a tour of its Cranston facility which included a scheduled blast. Invited were Rhode Island Independent Contractors & Associates as well as employees Caterpillar, Oldcastle Precast, RIDOT Material Division, and a few independent contractors. On hand from P.J. Keating were members of the sales staff, site managers and quality control and key production personnel. The tour started with an informal meeting and guests were escorted by passenger vans to the blast site. Everyone was impressed by the organization of the site and the safe conditions of the quarry. Larry Kelly (Cranston Site Mgr.) gave a brief overview of the quarry and even had a small Q&A session prior to the blast. You can bet that they were real impressed when the blast went off and after the all clear horn was sounded to see the 992 loader start

loading the haul trucks. Many questions and positive comments later the group went to the crusher and got a first hand look at this operation. Next stop was the Quality Control lab where Larry Andrews (QC Manager) explained to the group all the necessary testing equipment needed to run an accredited lab. After that the group was treated to a sandwiches and soft drinks and would like to extend a special thanks to Lucille St. Jean and her office staff for assisting in the success of this tour.

Article Courtesy of P.J. Keating Inc.



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