

# HICAPS Highlights

Providing a centralized approach to project management

Summer 2017

## HICAPS Keeps You Grounded!

**L**ightning season is upon us! Are your communication sites properly bonded to a grounding electrode system and ready? HICAPS Inc. has been a leader in communication site grounding and lightning investigation/mitigation for more than 15 years.

HICAPS' team of auditors works with public safety agencies during design, construction, post-construction and site maintenance phases to ensure grounding systems are properly installed and maintained.

Improper bonding and damage to grounding electrode systems can lead to costly equipment replacements, and can pose a danger to site personnel. It only takes one flaw in the overall grounding electrode system to create a point of entry causing a disaster at a communication site.

Have you updated any of the site utilities lately? If so there is potential for improper grounding as utility companies do not follow the same grounding standards. Has your site experienced extreme weather? If so there is potential for compromised grounding. Do you know how long it takes for a lightning strike at a communications site to dissipate? Even if you do, would you trust reaching out to unlocking that gate or touching that metal shelter doorknob, if that site had not been



audited within the previous year?

HICAPS' subject matter expert, Tom Smitley, has been busy educating the industry by presenting at the 2016 APCO conference and acting as a trusted advisor to our partners. Tom and his team have completed well over 1,000 audits nationwide and have ventured as far as South Africa to help our customers stay grounded. The team continues to expand the program beyond new and modified audits.

Our pre-construction and construction phased audit program has seen tremendous growth in 2016 and 2017. The auditors review the electrical drawings in the initial phase to confirm that proper grounding standards were

considered before drawings are accepted. The auditors then follow the construction schedule working closely with the general contractor and electric team to develop a phased approach to ensure that each level of completion complies with the required grounding specification. Leaving nothing to chance, this ensures nothing has been overlooked. We have helped our clients avoid costly mistakes and saved them countless dollars with this proactive approach.

The annual maintenance audit program is another area that is experiencing continued growth. HICAPS has a variety of county- and city-wide programs that cater to the needs of the customer. A typical program consists of an annual standard audit followed by a report that categorizes the areas that need critical attention, moderate attention and items that may need attention in the future. The auditor then works with the client on a plan of action which includes managing the repairs or modifications discovered during the audit. This program provides our clients with a more efficient way to prioritize and budget for necessary maintenance and repairs.

HICAPS continues to manage multiple site compliance contracts that keep our customers grounded.

## Employee News

HICAPS is pleased to introduce **Christina Mensah-Wilson** as a member of our Sustainable Construction Team. As our new Assistant Project Manager, she will be assisting with low-voltage, FF&E, and LEED projects. Christina has her degree in English and French and is a BPI certified building analyst.

In 2011, when she realized that Greensboro residents were in desperate need of her energy-saving expertise, she placed her writing career on the shelf to join Duke Energy's home auditing team, where she educated thousands of homeowners on how to make their homes more energy efficient. After six years, when she tired of hot attics and crawl spaces, she threw out a line, and we reeled her into the HICAPS fold.

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# HICAPS Recently Earns Four New Awards

HICAPS is proud to share that we are the recipient of four new awards:

- North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) Award for Excellence and Innovation in Federal Construction and Infrastructure Programs. This is the first time this award has been given to a General Contractor.
- North Carolina United States Green Building Council (USGBC) – 2017 Sustainable Leadership Award for Built Green Large Commercial Construction for the VA Medical Center, Las Vegas, NV Design Build 5MW Solar Photo Voltaic System.
- Construction Professional Network Star Award for the most outstanding new construction project in North Carolina. HICAPS won two of these awards this year: one for the Piedmont Triad Airport Ceiling Renovation Project category (less than \$10 million), and one for the UNCG - Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness Project category (\$10-\$25 million).

We are proud of these awards and share them with our staff, clients, team partners, and subcontractors. Truly a team effort!



## Employee News... *continued from page 1*

Christina is a remarkable wife, a marvelous mother of two, step-mother of two more, and a pretty good cook. Her theme song in the album of her life is “Groove is in the Heart” by Deee-Lite, she does not like piña colodas or long walks on the beach, but if you’re down for some hardcore hiking and beers afterward, you now know where to find her.



**Coke Smith** joins the HICAPS team as a Telecom Construction Manager. Coke is assigned to the WMATA 700MHz project developing new RF Tower locations for the public safety professionals that rely on coverage to serve more than 1.4 million bus and rail passengers each day. Coke has a tremendous amount of tower and communications experience. He launched his career in the Air Force and, over the past 30 years, has worked for various wireless carriers, building and maintaining tower sites. Coke was recently a Construction Manager at SBA Communications where he oversaw the construction of Verizon, T-Mobile, AT&T and Shentel tower sites in the Virginia market. Coke has that southern charm and a smile for everyone. If you get up before the sun, you can catch up with Coke in the gym. In his spare time Coke enjoys fishing, fast cars and family.

HICAPS is an unlimited Licensed General Contractor in Connecticut, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee.

We're doing our part. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.



# HICAPS

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