



FCIA Enewsletter – July 11, 2011 FCIA at ASTM, IAS, Spec Agencies, ASHE, ASSE, more...



~FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show

– We’re returning to Paradise Point, at San Diego’s Mission Bay area, CA. Watch for info on the Education Programming, Ray Usher Golf Tourney that funds the newly named Bob LeClair Scholarship, and more! Check out FCIA.org, events to see developments.



~Life Safety Organization Webinars – Life Safety Organization is conducting webinars on fire protection features in buildings. With over 100 attendees, the first session on Fire Doors went well. Look for FCIA’s Firestop Program presented by Eric Keeton & Bill McHugh in late July.

~FCIA Standards Committee requests shrinkage on Product Data Sheets, continued.... Specialty Firestop Contractors who inspect their own installed firestop systems or are inspected by 3rd party independent firms, have noticed that some firestop sealants/caulks shrink after application.

FCIA’s Standards Committee requested of the International Firestop Council and product manufacturers, that products used in firestop systems list on the printed product data sheets how much their products shrink during and after curing. As a result, UL published that they will

evaluate products to ASTM C 1241, Standard Test Method for Volume Shrinkage of Latex Sealants During Cure. Check out UL.com, certifications directory, Fill, Void or Cavity Materials, or contact each manufacturer for specific test results and info.

Eric Keeton, Mike Dominguez and Tracy Smith of FCIA’s Standards Committee are requesting more information about this issue, including the percent solids by volume, in addition to solids by weight to understand the issue better. A few manufacturers are already working to get this info to FCIA Members, and we are thankful to them for their cooperation. More as we learn it...stay tuned.

~FCIA in the Middle East - FCIA’s International Task Force has just formed, and is planning the October program in Abu Dhabi. FCIA’s Membership Committee, led by Bill Hoos, is planning the program. We may even wind up in India this fall!

~FCIA at ASSE – FCIA’s Standards Committee and Leadership continue participation in the development of the American Society of Sanitary Engineers’ Professional Qualification of Installers and Inspectors of Firestop Systems around Mechanical Piping. The inspector document has been recently completed during a series of teleconferences starting last February. Now, the group revisits the installer document. Thanks to Randy Bosscawen, Aedan Gleeson, Gary Hamilton, Bob Hasting, Eric Keeton, and Pat Tesche for participating in teleconferences.

~FCIA Board Elections coming Soon – The FCIA voting membership elects 3 new board members from the contractor membership each year. Are you interested in becoming a FCIA Director serving a 2 year term? Email bill@fcia.org your interest, and the FCIA Nominating Committee will contact you. Check out FCIA.org, board for info.

~FCIA at ASTM –FCIA announced a new initiative at ASTM to create a Standard for the Qualification of Installers and Inspectors of Firestop Systems, using the new certification program created at ASTM just last fall. The difference between this and the ASSE Program is that the ASTM Program is all encompassing, covering penetrations, joints walltops and bottoms, plus perimeter fire containment firestop systems. Watch for more on this as it develops. Thanks, [Eric Keeton](#), [Randy Bosscawen](#), [Bob Hasting](#), [Pat Tesche](#), for working on this project.

~Compliments to FCIA Accreditation Committee – While at the NFPA and other shows, there were several organizations developing or had ‘Contractor Accreditation Programs’ for contractor companies. The comment was, ‘we looked at FCIA’s programs for the example’. The Residential Sprinkler Programs, Sheet Metal (union sheet metal contractor program), and more are in the game. It’s a real compliment to FCIA that as we travel, FCIA’s collaborative work to develop FM 4991 and the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program has been noticed by large organizations, and their buying into the program. The FCIA Accreditation Committee is chaired by [Aedan Gleeson](#) and [Tom Hottenroth](#).

~FCIA met GSA at NFPA – Contractors, ever want to do business with the US General Services Administration (GSA)? GSA manages tons of buildings worldwide for the US Government. Visit FCIA.org, Members Only section, to find a person who is responsible for ‘Sales’, helping contractors understand how to get through the GSA process of contracting. We met a GSA representative at the NFPA Show in June.

~FCIA Life Safety Digest – Submit an article. You could be famous! Life Safety Digest is always looking for good generic articles on issues important to the Fire Resistance Rated Construction Industry, including fireproofing, firestopping, and effective compartmentation features. Send articles to angies@fcia.org.

**Life Safety
DIGEST**

~FCIA Past President Bob LeClair Family Fund – FCIA was saddened to hear of Bob LeClair’s death on May 4, 2011. Bob’s family, wife Beth, and his young sons David, Robert and Joshua report that there have been donations sent to the ‘LeClair Family Fund’, and send their thanks for your help. FCIA established this account for Beth and she is the only person that has access to it.

Beth LeClair c/o Huntington National Bank
Attn: Heather Sparks
4466 High Street, Columbus, OH 43214

Want to donate? Simply mail a check payable to Beth LeClair. It’s not a foundation at this point. Contact the FCIA office, linda@fcia.org or Heather directly at (614) 480-0010, if you have questions.

~FCIA Welcomes NEW Members!!

NEW FCIA Contractor Members

Century Drywall, RI
Hailey Insulation Corp., NY
Mader Construction Company, NY
M P Firestop, FL
Quality Firestop Solutions, VA
Ram Construction, MI
Red Line Wall Systems Inc., MA
Taylor Interiors, NC

NEW FCIA Associate Members

Oregon Health & Science University, OR
Tempo Tech, Canada (Welcome Back!)

~New and Improved FM, UL Programs?

FCIA's Accreditation Committee unveiled at the FCIA Education and Committee Action Conference that some upgrades are under discussion for FM 4991 and the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program. A unanimous answer was provided that 'if FM & UL did random inspections of FM 4991 Approved Contractors or UL Qualified Firestop Contractors, that the programs would be more attractive to AHJ's, Specifiers and Firestop Contractors

Need to find info to get FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified? Visit FCIA.org, FM 4991 Approval or UL Qualification pages, 'how to' section, and the FCIA members only section to get answers about Management Systems Manuals. Contact FCIA's office if you need your password.

~FCIA @IgCC – FCIA attended the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) Hearings in Dallas, May 15-21. We supported the Portland Cement Association on their quest to have 1 or 2 hour rated wall as 'sustainable', less likely to wind up in a landfill. This effort, and many others based on International Building Code proposals from years past on height and area tables, etc., were all presented, under the 'green' banner, and voted down.

At the IgCC Hearings, FCIA also helped FCIA Manufacturer Members by working with Angie Ogino of Thermafiber on a code proposal that would have banned formaldehyde from being used in all insulations. We were able to have the proponent help in this disapproval.

Tremco's Michael Schmeida (Sealants Division) testified on a similar proposal that would have outlawed formaldehyde from all latex sealants. Latex intumescent sealants and mineral wool insulation have some formaldehyde in them.

Both these proposals did not pass at the committee hearings in Dallas. They may come back as public comments, however, in Phoenix, this October.

Also in the IgCC of important note to the firestopping industry is a requirement for products installed in concealed spaces to have a life expectancy of between 25-60 years, justified somehow in writing. We're not sure if manufacturers will provide warranties, or what years. We await how the claim that the product will last this long will work in the industry. Warranty from the product manufacturer? More as this develops.

~FCIA at ASHE – FCIA's Marketing Committee led by Don Murphy showed the new FCIA Trade Show Booth Banners at the ASHE Show in March, and at the FCIA education and Committee Action Conference. We visit the ASHE in Seattle with the new banners July 17 & 18.



Don Murphy & New Trade Show Display Panel

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Best wishes for a safe, successful construction season.

Bill McHugh, FCIA Executive Director

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