

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 24, Issue 9

FCIA IN ACTION

FCIA's 2022 has been active as conferences, symposiums, webinars, trade show booths, code hearings, and in-person events all started back up after pausing and slowly coming back in the wake of COVID.

Webinars

The FCIA Educational Webinar Series on firestopping, effective compartmentation, and fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant construction had thousands attend over the year. The 1-hour educational webinars get 15-30-minutes (or more!) of questions and answers each session. We've had several webinars for 1, 2, and 4 hours. The 4-hour special FCIA Member Only sessions prepare members for the FM and UL Firestop Exams. These webinars are always cutting edge.



HILTI's Matthew Winston addresses attendees in Vancouver. FCIA Photo

Symposiums

It was great to be back in Canada (Vancouver, BC) and the Gulf Region (Doha, Qatar and Dubai, United Arab Emirates) working with and educating FCIA Members, Code Officials, Fire Marshals, Specifiers, and friends. Hundreds attended FCIA Symposiums with industry leading speakers and topics on firestopping. Many also had the opportunity to take the FM & UL-ULC Firestop Exams.

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FCIA IN ACTION cont'd

Conferences

FCIA Members came back to FCIA's Education and Committee Action (ECA '22) Conference in Nashville and Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show (FIC '22) in Amelia Island, FL in big numbers. With speakers from key partners like the International Code Council, NFPA, and more, the conferences saw great attendance, great speakers, and awesome relationship building for members – just like our members have come to expect from FCIA events.



Kevin Dougherty presents in Nashville, TN at ECA '22 this May. FCIA Photo



Paul Anderson (Revelation Door Inspections) talks to FCIA Member, Ben Urcavich, at the FIC '22 Trade Show. FCIA Photo

Trade Shows

FCIA's Marketing Committee did an outstanding job getting back on the road to spread the FCIA story to the world. Thanks to FCIA Marketing Committee Members Aideen Doneski, Bill Jannino, Gus Mancini, Taylor Benay, Lauren Sustek, and Ben Urcavich, as well as FCIA Canada Committee representatives Tyler Sharpe and Jeffrey Zamora, and all others who travelled to work the FCIA booth at various trade shows on FCIA's behalf.



Here's where FCIA could be found this year:

- AIA Conference on Architecture (AIA)
- NFPA Conference & Expo (NFPA)
- International Code Council Annual Conference & Expo (ICC)
- National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Symposium (NASFM)
- International Facility Managers Association World Workplace (IFMA)
- American Society for Healthcare Engineering Annual Conference & Exhibition (ASHE)
- Ontario Building Officials Association, Niagara Chapter (OBOA)
- Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society Annual Conference (CHES)
- AMRACI/CONAPCI World Expo & Leadership Meeting – Mexico City

At each of these events, the 'DIIM' of Firestopping, including Systems, FCIA Members, FM & UL-ULC Firestop Contractors, Inspection, and Maintaining protection are front and center. FCIA promotes your company as its #1 goal wherever we go.

FCIA IN ACTION cont'd



Articles

FCIA firestopping and fire-resistance articles have appeared several publications, including:

American Society for Healthcare Engineering's Health Facilities - <https://www.hfmmagazine.com/articles/4498-maintaining-fire-safety-in-hospitals>

Facility Executive - <https://facilityexecutive.com/2022/03/fire-resistance-rated-assemblies-in-existing-buildings/>

International Fire Protection - <https://ifpmag.mdmublishing.com/author/billmchugh/>

And many others over the years, promoting the 'DIIM' Concept and how to correctly view firestopping in buildings.

Inspection

A FCIA Task Group of the FCIA Inspection Committee has been meeting to review ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393, Firestop and Joint Inspection Standards. This group is reviewing to see what should change in the standards for better fire and life safety than is currently in the documents. More on this in '23.



FCIA Members Taylor Benay and Ethan Greer represent FCIA at IFMA World Workplace (top), while Tyler Sharpe and Jeffrey Zamora at the FCIA booth at CHES (above). FCIA Photo

FCIA presents at the AMRACI/CONAPCI World Expo & Leadership Meeting in Mexico City. FCIA Photo



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Fire-Resistance-Rated Assemblies In Existing Buildings

This article from the Firestop Contractors International Association looks at maintaining protection using fire-resistance-rated assemblies, including multi-family structures.

March 25, 2022



MAINTAINING FIRE-RESISTANCE PROTECTION IN MULTI-FAMILY AND OTHER OCCUPANCIES

By Bill McHugh

Facility Executive published an article by FCIA's Bill McHugh earlier this year. FCIA Photo



FCIA EDUCATION - BEST IN CLASS

“The FCIA FCAEP Program is the best technical content available in the Firestopping Industry,” is what Contractors are reporting.

FCIA's Firestop Level 1-4 Certificate of Achievement Education Programs offer FCIA Member Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors, Special Inspection Agency personnel, and their staff the opportunity to dive deep into the world of firestopping. With education covering the introductory 'DIIM' of Firestopping to the more advanced systems selection and analysis, the program is a comprehensive program for all involved in the installation and inspection of installed firestop systems.

FCIA Contractor Member personnel have been plowing through the program, getting FCAEP Certificates to build better industry knowledge for their company. The \$1,000 Annual Subscription for FCIA's Certificate of Achievement Program is a real bargain for the educational value provided.

The Level 1 and Level 2 Courses are being recognized by UL for 20 hours (2 CEU's) for Level 1 and 2 combined. For DRI's in the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program, it means .5 CEU's for Level 1 (5 hours) and 1.5 CEU'S for Level 2 (15 hours) towards keeping a DRI Status current.

Learn more about the FCAEP at www.FCIA.org.



FCIA MEETS WITH UL & FM

Since 1999, the FCIA Accreditation Committee has been leading the charge to develop recognized Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor accreditation programs to improve fire and life safety around the world.

FCIA's Accreditation Committee leaders met with both UL and FM Approvals leadership in November/December 2022 with suggestions about how the programs can become even more widely accepted in the industry.

The FCIA Accreditation Committee worked with FM Approvals to build the FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors Program in 1999. The Committee worked with UL in 2003-2006 to launch UL's Qualified Firestop Contractor Program. Combined, there are over 200 contractors worldwide that are either FM 4991 Approved or UL-ULC Qualified Contractors.

Thanks to FCIA's Accreditation Committee for your work – and our partners at FM Approvals and UL.



FCIA ADVOCATES FOR FIRESTOP AT ICC

FCIA is active at the International Code Council (ICC), advocating to keep fire and life safety at the forefront of the discussion.

Through 2022, FCIA's presence at the International Code Council's Code Development Process focused on keeping people safe in new and existing buildings, keeping fire-resistance an important concept in 104.11, alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment.

In response to an exchange where it was stated that fire-resistance has been eliminated from the Code, FCIA stated "Fire Resistance has NOT been eliminated", otherwise, that was what was on record. "To provide an alternative material/system, proof of performance based on Chapter 7's requirements for fire-resistance and firestopping has to take place." And, we worked on a lot more too...



FCIA was present and active at the ICC Hearings earlier this year. FCIA Photo

THE FCIA PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The FCIA Program Committee works with FCIA staff to create dynamic technical programming and events for FCIA membership and interested parties.

This Committee has been one of the most active in FCIA. Among this group, program speakers and locations are discussed at length to provide a great experience at all FCIA Conferences.



The FCIA Program Committee works hard to put together stellar programming for FCIA members and exhibitor companies, like FIC '22. FCIA Photos

BARRIER MANAGEMENT SERVICES EXPERTS & FIRE CODES

Not all who perform work in existing buildings can claim to be true Barrier Management experts.

Building Owners and Managers are required by the International Fire Code, NFPA 101, NFPA 1, the National Fire Code of Canada, UAE Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice, and other codes to maintain all types of fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assemblies for the life of the building. This includes the installed Firestopping, Fire Doors, Fire Dampers, Fire-Resistance-Rated Walls and Floors, and Fire-Rated Glazing in existing buildings.

Building owners need to understand what the building's fire-resistance-rated walls and floors and other fire protection features are in order to manage them. The International Fire Code (IFC) calls this the "inventory". The requirement for maintaining protection – the annual visual inspection and records kept of the inspection and repairs – is stated loud and clear in the IFC, Section 701.6.

701.6 Owner's responsibility. The owner shall maintain an inventory of all required fire-resistance-rated construction, construction installed to resist the passage of smoke and the construction included in Sections 703 through 707 and Sections 602.4.1 and 602.4.2 of the International Building Code. Such construction shall be visually inspected by the owner annually and properly repaired, restored or replaced where damaged, altered, breached or penetrated. Records of inspections and repairs shall be maintained. Where concealed, such elements shall not be required to be visually inspected by the owner unless the concealed space is accessible by the removal or movement of a panel, access door, ceiling tile or similar movable entry to the space. [IFC 2021, 701.6]

If you have building owners and manager, facility director customers, help them protect building occupants through a planned fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assembly program that maintains protection. Advise your customer that fire code requirements are discoverable should there be loss of life or property in a fire condition where unprotected breaches allowed for fire or smoke spread beyond the room of

origin. As was stated by an attendee at a conference, "build a program to maintain protection so you are sitting in row 2 of the courtroom, instead of being prosecuted".

The Barrier Management Services Member Lists at FCIA.org have listings of companies that specialize in this niche line of business. FCIA Members designated with a listing at the Barrier Management Services section of FCIA.org are experts in providing services to parts or the whole barrier – fire wall, fire barrier, smoke barrier, smoke partition, fire partition. ALL Firestop Contractor Members are listed on the Barrier Management Firestop Systems page.

FCIA Members: Want greater exposure? Email Cathy at cathy@FCIA.org and ask about listings in other Barrier Management Services categories.

Upcoming Events

December 23-26	FCIA Office Closed
December 30- January 1	FCIA Office Closed
January 11	FCIA Webinar
January 26-27	FCIA Board Meeting
February 5-6	FCIA Symposium Doha
February 9-11	Fire Safe Build India
February 14-15	FCIA Symposium Dubai

FCIA THANKS...

"No matter how small the contribution, your impact is big."

FCIA's Board of Directors continues to meet quarterly to provide strategic direction to the association's committees and staff. The mission set in motion at FCIA's 1st Conference is carried forward by each Board, with their own unique adjustments in direction. Thanks for serving.

FCIA Committee leaders provide a lot to FCIA's direction. We're lucky to have the best of the best

working on FCIA's Board and Committees. These leaders volunteer time and talent, all to make the industry better at providing fire and life safety solutions in buildings. A big thanks to all volunteers.



The 2023 FCIA Board of Directors. FCIA Photos



'The 'DIIM' of Firestopping for Safer Buildings'

Wednesday, January 11
10:00 am - 12:00 pm CST



CALLING ALL FIRESTOP CONTRACTORS WITH A CLT PROJECT

The FCIA Program Committee is looking to partner with an FCIA Contractor Member to develop a future Conference session.

The FCIA Program Committee is looking to work with a FCIA Contractor Member company who either has an upcoming CLT project or a CLT project in progress. The session will be a long-term partnership that gives people a "behind-the-scenes" look at a real-world CLT project. We are looking to document the project along the way with photos, videos, testimonials.

If this sounds like something you would be able to participate in, please reach out to Lindsey at lindsey@FCIA.org.



FCIA works hard to spread the word of the 'DIIM' of [Firestopping](#) around the world, encouraging all interested Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors, Special Inspection Agencies, Associates, Manufacturers, and more to become involved to grow the industry's call for better fire and life safety.

FCIA proudly welcomes new members, and we thank them for their support and commitment to the Firestop industry.

Thank you to all current members, as well, for helping to grow FCIA and the Specialty Firestop trade, resulting in improved fire- and life-safety systems.

FCIA New Contractor Members

- Gulf States Service Group - Jefferson, LA

FCIA New Associate Members

- Fire Wall Signs Inc. - Wilmington, NC

FCIA New Manufacturer Members

- Ecoglo, Inc. - Buffalo, NY

FCIA Members: Do you have more than one Branch location? Make it easier to be found worldwide with a 'Branch Membership and Listing' at www.FCIA.org. Questions? Email cathy@fcia.org and we'll fill you in.



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