

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 1

ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES – A DANGEROUS THREAT

Electric vehicles (EVs) bring unique fire challenges to first responders, designers, building owners and managers, occupants.

Sales of electric vehicles (EVs) hit 6.6 million in 2021, over triple the market share two years earlier – and bikes, scooter EV sales are growing rapidly too.

The lithium-ion (or similar) batteries are used inside of electric vehicles, scooters, bikes, etc., and can fail. Lithium-ion battery thermal runaway is where a single battery cell failure can cause the production of heat and oxygen, plus flammable and toxic gasses. This then spreads to adjacent cells, causing potential rapid fire-growth or explosion – even from small batteries.



NFPA's Robby Dawson presents at FIC '22 in November. FCIA Photo

NFPA's Southeast Region Manager, Robby Dawson, presented on these and other fire-risks in buildings at FCIA's Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show (FIC) '22 in Amelia Island, FL. Check out NFPA's EV Resource section and FCIA's Members Only Section for info and his presentation. And make plans to attend ECA '23 in New Orleans, where we'll hear from Robby again.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 ICC PRESENTS ON BUILDING RESILIENCE
- 3 ROLLING FIRE DOOR RESOURCES
- FCIA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH DOOR OPENING INDUSTRY TRAINING GROUP
- 4 WHEN IS A BUILDING DECLARED A HIGH-RISE?
- THE 2024 NFPA CODES
- 5 DEVELOPING 2024 I-CODES
- NEW CANADA CODE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
- 6 UL-ULC STANDARDS TECHNICAL PANELS OVERSEE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT
- FCIA SYMPOSIUMS HEADED FOR GULF REGION
- 7 FCIA NEW MEMBER WELCOME



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Durable insulation systems for protection against fire scenarios.

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ICC PRESENTS ON BUILDING RESILIENCE

ICC Director at Large, Michael Savage, Sr., MCO, CBO, CFPS, CEI-M, presented to FCIA's FIC '22 attendees on "Building Resilience and the ICC".

He also presented a 9-step plan for firestop planning, complete with SYSTEMS at the heart of planning. Other covered topics included FEMA's BRIC program on hazard mitigation and the USA White House and FEMA initiative to advance building code adoptions for national building resiliency.

Michael will be presenting an expanded session at FCIA's ECA '23 – the Education and Committee Action Conference – in May. FCIA Members can check out presentations from FCIA FIC '22 in the Members Only area.

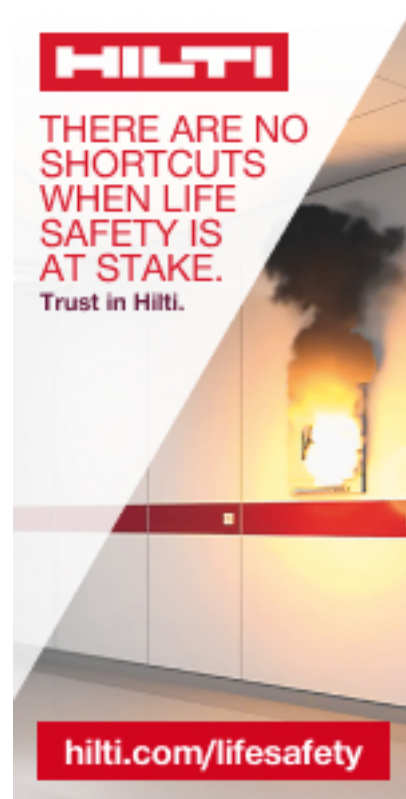
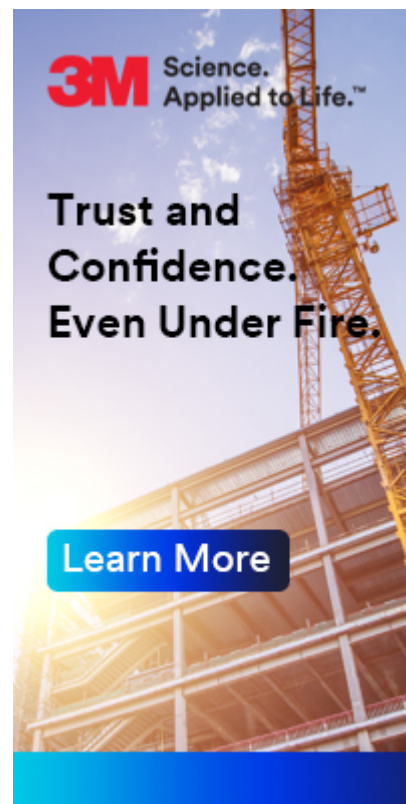


Michael Savage, Sr. presents in Amelia Island, FL. FCIA Photo

FCIA Member, FM Approved, and UL Qualified Firestop Contractors provide protection of fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assemblies that can help building resilience.

Upcoming Events

February 5-6	FCIA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Doha
February 9-11	Fire Safe Build India
February 14-15	FCIA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Dubai
February 18-21	The Big 5 Saudi
February 28	FCIA Webinar



ROLLING FIRE DOOR RESOURCES

Barrier Management Services Contractors and Inspection Agencies looking for education and certifications in Rolling Fire Door services have a few options available in the marketplace.

The Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) publishes Rolling Fire Door Technical Data Sheets* periodically.



Rolling Fire Doors separate spaces. Cornell Iron Works Image

Data sheets are designed to aid users, purchasers, installers, and specifiers of DASMA products. They are posted at www.DASMA.com and are a great resource for inspections and drop tests.

Check out [Rolling Fire Door Terminology](#) and Procedures for [Repair of UL Classified Rolling Steel Type Fire Doors](#).

Additionally, the Institute of Door Dealer Education and Accreditation (IDEA) offers Rolling Steel Fire Door Certification for individual installers at www.dooreducation.com/certification/.

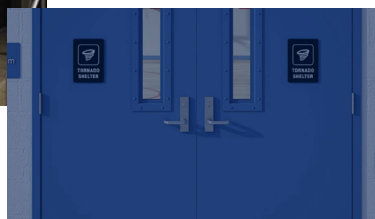
* Technical Data Sheets are not substitutes for instruction sheets from manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and always check applicable local regulations.

FCIA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH DOOR OPENING INDUSTRY TRAINING GROUP

NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives, requires fire doors to be inspected annually by a Qualified Person.

The International Fire Code requires annual visual inspection of ALL fire-resistance-rated assemblies and the protection features – firestopping included. Fire Doors can be the entry to Building Owners to help them satisfy the annual visual inspection requirement in NFPA 80 and the International Fire Code.

To 'get you in the door', FCIA announces a new partnership with the Door Opening Industry Training Group (DOIT). DOIT



Swinging Fire-Rated Door. Allegion image

provides discounts for FCIA Members to learn about how to inspect fire doors in new and existing buildings.

DOIT Courses include:

- Qualified Fire Door Inspector Training and Certification
- Opening Industry Bootcamp
- Building a Code Foundation

Once you are in the door, an existing building survey for firestopping, fire dampers, and fire-resistance-rated walls and floors can be presented, helping Building Owners and Managers comply with the International Fire Code (Annual Visual Inspection), NFPA 1, (High-Rise every 3 years) and NFPA 101 (maintain protection) requirements too.

Don't miss out. The next course is March 27-30 in Charlotte, NC USA. Show the DOIT team your FCIA Membership and get the discount for your staff's *Qualified Fire Door Inspector Training and Certification Program*.

Register at www.educate-doit.com/.

WHEN IS A BUILDING DECLARED A HIGH-RISE?

There has long been dynamic discussion surrounding the definition of what constitutes a High-Rise building and the code implications.

Chapter 2 of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) includes the following definition of a High-Rise Building:

HIGH-RISE BUILDING. A building with an occupied floor located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. [2021 IBC, 202]

A successful code proposal, G15-21, changed this definition to include Occupiable Roofs in the calculation of where the 75' above lowest fire department vehicle access is measured – which defines the High-Rise building. This was a big debate over both the Group A and Group B cycles – two different times. With this code proposal win, the updated definition states the following:

HIGH-RISE BUILDING. A building with an occupied occupiable floor and occupiable roof

located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. [LIKELY 2024 IBC, 202]

Another proposal, EB46, added language to the Existing Building Code that a new occupiable roof shall comply with provisions from the IBC, including the high-rise provisions should the occupiable roof cause the building to exceed a height of 75 ft. Proposal EB84 clarified that occupiable roofs need an accessible means of egress.

Two proposals, EB46 and EB94, attempted to add that the threshold for triggering the High-Rise requirements for Exiting Buildings is 50 or greater occupants on the occupiable roof. Both attempts were disapproved, resulting in a zero (0) threshold for the High-Rise provisions. These clarifications were under discussion for at least two code cycles.

The occupiable roof debate at the 2021 and 2022 Group A and Group B ICC Code Development Hearings was centered around:

“If I’m standing on the occupiable roof, I want to be protected as if I’m on the occupiable floor below”.

The code requirements for an “occupiable roof” clearly needs further clarification, so know that there will likely be more proposals in the 2027 IBC Code Development Cycle clarifying the definition and seeking more requirements and more exceptions.

THE 2024 NFPA CODES

All NFPA Codes and Standards are revised every three to five years.

Both NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code and NFPA 5000, the Building Construction & Safety Code are on a three-year cycle.

There were not many changes to the 2024 version of NFPA 101 and NFPA 5000. Finalizing the process, motions will be debated and decided at [NFPA's June Technical Meeting](#), immediately following the [NFPA Conference & Expo](#), June 19-23 in Las Vegas, NV.



DEVELOPING 2024 I-CODES

The 2022 Group B Online Governmental Consensus Vote took place from October 17 through November 1, 2022 at ICC's CDPACCESS website.



Preliminary results have been posted at www.iccsafe.org. The next step in the code development process is to have multiple third-party auditors validate processes for this cycle. The results of those audits are then presented to ICC's Board of Directors.

We expect results of the Cycle B Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote to be available at the end of January 2023. The finalized 2024 I-Codes, including the 2024 International Building Code, should be published around October 2023.

On to the 2027 I-Code development process.

NEW CANADA CODE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

The National Building Code of Canada, National Fire Code of Canada, and Canadian Plumbing and Energy Codes are developed using a consensus body at the National Research Council of Canada.

The newly formed Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes (CBHCC) assumes responsibility for the development of Canada's National Model Codes. The CBHCC replaces the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) – the Committee that has been responsible for managing the National Code Development System in Canada since 1991.

A stated purpose of the move was “reducing variations in technical requirements between codes, for more timely adoption, and for a transformed national code development

system that meets the needs of all jurisdictions”.

The Public Review on proposed changes to the 2025 National Model Codes of Canada is going on now and runs until December 23, 2022. A summary of proposed changes can be found at <https://ccbfcc-cbcbpi.ca/en/updates-referenced-documents/>.



FCIA submitted several code proposals including firestopping inspection mandated by the NBCC, and qualified or approved contractors, and other proposals.

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) continues publishing the codes and provides administrative, technical, and policy support to the code development

system.

UL-ULC STANDARDS TECHNICAL PANELS OVERSEE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

UL and ULC's Standards Development Process is governed by the Standards Technical Panels (STP).

An STP is a group of individuals, representing a variety of interests, formed to review proposals to the Standards. This balanced consensus committee reviews proposals to UL Standards made by STP Members and the general public.

FCIA has representation on UL 1479 – Penetration Firestopping, UL 2079 – Joint Firestopping, CAN/ULC-S115 – Firestopping-Penetrations and Joints, Perimeter Fire Containment, and attends CAN/ULC-S101, UL 263 fire-resistance Standards.

FCIA is there to provide Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor field input to the Standards development process.

FCIA SYMPOSIUMS HEADED FOR GULF REGION

One of FCIA's building blocks is the commitment to being the global leader for education about the importance of properly 'D'esigned, 'I'nstalled, 'I'nspected, and 'M'aintained firestop systems.

Worldwide recognition of the importance of having a Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor installing firestopping to the Manufacturer's installation instructions and tested and listed systems specs continues to spread. FCIA works to further spread this message by hosting educational events around the world for Contractors, Inspectors, Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), Fire and Code Officials, Building Owners and Managers, and others.

Two such events are the upcoming FCIA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposiums in the Gulf Region.

- [FCIA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Doha - 5-6 February](#)
- [FCIA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Dubai - 14-15 February](#)

Both events feature a full-day of education covering the various aspects of firestopping, from proper design to the importance of expert installation, Fire Test Standards to Inspection Standards, systems selection to maintenance. As a service to the industry, registration is free for select honored guest delegates.

Following this, Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors and/or Special Inspection Agency personnel interested in setting themselves apart from the competition can elect to attend an additional day of FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams, followed by taking the [FM or UL Firestop Exams](#). These rigorous exams test knowledge of the firestop industry and help establish competency and display expertise in the field of firestopping.

Registration deadlines are fast approaching.

For more information, visit www.FCIA.org/EVENTS/Conferences-Symposiums.

A special thanks to STI and Construction Specialties for their sponsorship of both the Middle East and (upcoming) Canada events. Both FCIA Manufacturer Plus Members will receive additional exposure during the event, as well as complimentary registration for their local representatives.

By educating all parties involved in the construction process on the 'DIIM' of Firestopping, we can save lives and protect property worldwide through firestopping and effective compartmentation installed right the first time, every time.

EDUCATIONAL
WEBINAR
SERIES '22

'Testing, Inspection, and Maintenance
of Life Safety Dampers'

Tuesday, February 28
10:00 am - 11:30 am CST



NEW MEMBER Welcome

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

- Firestopperzz, LLC - Gaithersburg, MD
- The Wells Co - Sealant & Restoration Division - Albany, MN

FCIA New International Contractor Members

- Alia Advanced Co. Ltd - Jeddah, Makkah, KSA

FCIA New Contractor Branch Members

- Remedi8, LLC - Lenexa, KS

FCIA New Associate Branch Members

- Bay Insulation - Kansas City - Kansas City, MO

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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