

# THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 2

## FCIA TOURS THE GULF AND INDIA

**Educating on the importance of the Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor and Special Inspection of installed fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant systems was at the forefront of FCIA's activities during our recent tour of India and the Gulf Region.**

FCIA Executive Director, Bill McHugh, had a busy February traveling around the Gulf Region and India on behalf of FCIA. The trip started with the FCIA Fire-Resistance in Existing Buildings Symposium in Doha, where he saw FCIA Members old and new for the Symposium and Firestop Exams. The event welcomed many Hamad Medical Center Staff, in addition to FCIA Members from Qatar. This group is always working to make fire and life safety in buildings a priority for patients and staff in hospitals and their firestop clients. It was great to be with them!



FCIA Doha Symposium Attendees. FCIA Photo

Then, he travelled to India for the inaugural Fire Safe Build India (FSBI) event, where he met many industry professionals from the India construction industry. With India having one of the fastest

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## FCIA TOURS cont'd



IIT-G Exterior Wall Fire Test, simulated Grenfell Tower Fire. FCIA Photo

developing economies in the world, the event brought together professionals from around India to educate on and discuss the passive fire protection industry. While in India, Bill had the honor of meeting with fire-service students, Senior Advisors, and Graduate Students in fire-protection. He also visited the Indian Institute of Technology's Gandhinagar (IIT-G) new fire test laboratory, which recreated the Grenfell tower disaster, as well as the Entrepreneurship /

Business Incubator Center close to campus. The India Institute of Technology at Gandhinagar (IIT-G) fire test laboratory is quite an impressive place. Look for more expansion of this lab over the next few years.

After that, Bill headed to Dubai for the FCIA Fire-Resistance in Existing Buildings Symposium and Firestop Exams. UL Solutions' Amr Mahmoud presented on the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program, educating on the importance of using



ESL's Julius Sarmiento addresses the group on fire-resistance in existing buildings. FCIA Photo



Amr Mahmoud (UL Solutions) presents on the UL QFCP in Dubai. FCIA Photo

qualified Firestop Contractors to install fire-resistance-rated fire protection systems. Emirates Safety Laboratory's Ahmed Yousry welcomed delegate attendees and Julius Sarmiento presented on fire-resistance in buildings. Bill also had the chance to visit the Emirates Safety Laboratory (ESL) and speak with Thomas Bell Wright International Consultants (TBWIC). The visit to the impressive Emirates Safety Laboratory and Dubai Civil Defence resulted in great discussions about fire-safety in the region.

Bill rounded out his FCIA travels with a stop in Riyadh, KSA for the Big 5 Saudi event. The event is the largest construction event in Saudi Arabia, bringing together 28,000+ attendees and over 750 local and international exhibitors from 40 different countries to showcase the latest in construction innovations and technologies. Among the exhibitor companies was FCIA Member TBWIC (as well as at FSBI). And, UL Solutions was found on the agenda at the Big 5 Saudi presenting on firestopping.

What a great three weeks we had promoting FCIA Members and educating the marketplace on the proper 'DIIM' of Firestopping and fire and life safety in the region. FCIA was proud to work with UL Solutions and ESL to bring dynamite education and the Firestop Exams to the region. It was also great to see FCIA friends from ICC and Thomas Bell-Wright

active at these important events. It's exciting to see the investment in the Middle East region by our friends in passive fire protection testing and research. And a big thanks to STI Firestop and Construction Specialties for sponsoring the two FCIA events!



Bill McHugh, Gaith Bakir (UL Solutions), and Mohamed Amer (ICC) at the Big 5 Saudi event in Riyadh, KSA. FCIA Photo



Many thanks to Sr. Advisor Jagdish Vitapalli, Dr. Guarav, IIT-G Chair, Civil Engineering, IIT-G staff and fire service, and IIT-G graduate students and interns for a great visit. Enjoy the FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice! FCIA Photo

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WHEN LIFE SAFETY  
IS AT STAKE.**

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## DID YOU KNOW...

**FCIA has tons of resources on FCIA.org!**

Especially in the members only section!

Did you also know that FCIA was successful building a North American Industry Classification Code for Firestop Contractors? That means there's a line item for governments of Canada, US, and Mexico to buy firestop contracting services. What about the O-Net Code for the firestop containment worker?

There's a lot in the archives that might answer the questions of today in [FCIA's Members Only Pages](#).



## FREE MONTHLY FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED ASSEMBLY EDUCATION?

**YES! Sessions from the FCIA Educational Webinar Series are open to view and FREE for everyone.**

The [FCIA Educational Webinar Series](#) is a free monthly online education series on the various aspects of fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistive assemblies and their protection features – firestopping, fire doors, fire and smoke dampers, fire-rated glazing, fire-rated walls and floors, and more. Attendees come away with an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the topics presented and have the opportunity to interact with experts during the Q&A session immediately following each session. It's a valuable service FCIA provides to the industry.

Registration for the monthly sessions are open to all. Presentation slides are also available to the public to view following the conclusion of the program. Webinar presentation recordings are available for Members in the [Members Only](#) area of the website – another Member benefit from FCIA.

EDUCATIONAL  
WEBINAR  
SERIES
22

['Is That A Fire Barrier?'](#)

Thursday, March 23  
10:00 am - 11:30 am CDT

Register for our next  
FREE Webinar >>

# FIRESTOP CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT...

Are now available from FCIA!

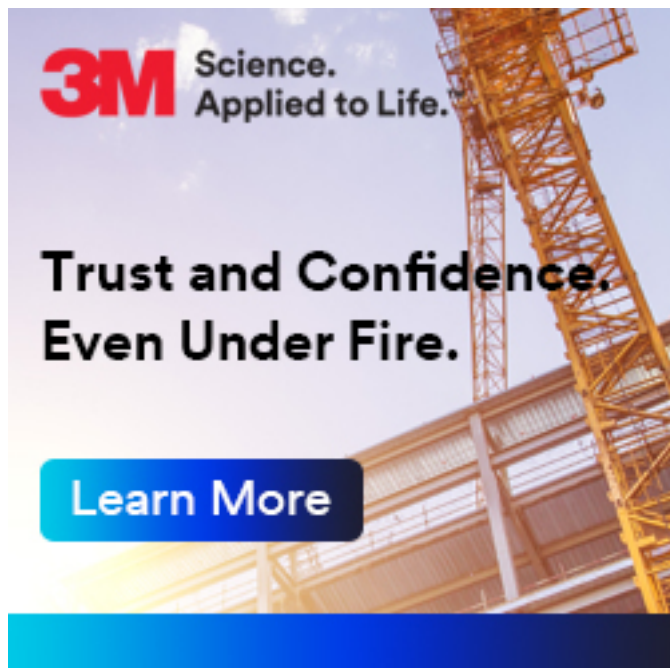
Think of FCIA's [Firestop Certificate of Achievement Education Program \(FCAEP\)](#) as a Masters in Firestopping. The Firestop Levels 1 & 2 Programs have about 18 hours of firestop-industry specific educational content and provide students with an FCIA Certificate of Achievement upon completion of the programs.

The Firestop Level 1 Program covers the 'DIIM' of Firestopping and provides an overview of the industry with very generic, entry-level education.

The Firestop Level 2 Program takes a close look at all the different types of firestop materials and systems, with a depth of content deeper than any other educational program available in the marketplace – worldwide. A bold statement, but worthy.

The FCAEP is a unique, one-of-a-kind program, the only one of its kind in the world. The program is intended for use by FCIA Member Contractors and Special Inspection Agencies to be the best educated people in the industry.

It is also a proof-source for UL-ULC Qualified Firestop



Contractors as part of their reporting of employee training and education. UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor DRIs are allowed 26 Learning Units (LUs) for going through the program. FM Approvals DRIs get 16.5 Learning Units (LUs).

FCIA Members can purchase an Unlimited Subscription for \$1,000 USD, which provides unlimited education for unlimited staff at each office location. Enrolled staff can go through the Firestop Level 1 & 2 Programs as many times as they want within a 12-month period. (Only one Certificate is earned, regardless of how many times a user views the content.) Companies with multiple locations buy a separate program for each location.

Don't miss out!

## Upcoming Events

March 12-14	ASHE PDC Summit
March 23	FCIA Webinar
March 27-31	NFCA Week of Learning
April 11-13	IFMA Facility Fusion
April 12	FCIA Webinar
April 16-19	ASTM E06 Meetings



# FIRE SAFE BUILD INDIA PARTNERS WITH FCIA FOR A SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL EVENT

FCIA was honored to present on the 'DIIM' of Firestopping and fire-resistance and to have a booth at the first-ever Fire Safe Build India (FSBI).

Our programs on the 'DIIM' of Firestopping – the proper 'D'esign, 'I'nstallation, 'I'nspection, and 'M'aintaining Protection – as well as general passive fire-resistance, at the inaugural FSBI Show were well received.

FCIA's trade show booth had great traffic too. We were honored to meet new contractor friends from India. It was also great to see representatives from FCIA Member companies like Hilti, Specified Technologies, UL Solutions, and others, as well as friends from FM Approvals.



FCIA Photos

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ECA '23

FCIA'S Education & Committee Action Conference heads to NOLA this May.

Registration is open for [ECA '23](#), the [FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference](#). The event brings together industry experts and firestop professionals to further the advancement of fire and life safety through education, action, and networking.

The week-long event kicks off this May 9, 2023 at the [Sheraton New Orleans](#) with the FM & UL-ULC Firestop Exams, and continues through May 12 with the Committee Action sessions, dynamic educational sessions, and networking opportunities.

You'll find education on topics like

- Avoiding Burnout and the Science of Having More Energy with Caleb Spitler
- The Codes Discussion Continues with Bill Koffel
- Passive Fire Protection in Saving Lives and Property
- Firestop Product Standards
- A DNV Look at Fire-Resistance & Barrier Management

plus a Perimeter Fire Containment panel, an economic update with Anirban Basu, repeat visits from NFPA and ICC, and more! It really is too good to miss, so make sure you [register to be there!](#)

**Important to note:** The New Orleans Jazz Festival ends May 7, so group rate availability for pre- and post-date stays is VERY limited. If you are planning to attend and want to extend your hotel room, make sure you [book your room now!](#)

See you in NOLA!



## ALBION ENGINEERING COMPANY ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Albion recently announced that Dean Hammel has succeeded Mark Schneider as President.

Dean originally joined Albion in 2016. His leadership qualities exemplify how Albion serves its customers and the industry. Hammel mentioned, "When I joined Albion six years ago I didn't realize the impact that Mark Schneider had, not only on the company's success, but on the entire industry." Albion is confident that "The Best Will Just Keep Getting Better" as Dean takes the helm.

The change in leadership went into effect starting January 1, 2023. Albion Engineering Company was one of the first FCIA



Mark Schneider (Albion)  
and Dean Hammel (Albion).  
Albion Photos



Associate Members and has been a long-time supporter of FCIA and our Members. Our kudos to Mark Schneider for listening to the FCIA Member Firestop Contractors in the early 2000's and inventing new ways for dispensing firestop sealants at hard-to-reach areas.

Congrats to Mark & family on this important move.



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

- Comox Valley Firestopping Solutions - Courtenay, BC
- United Painting Services - Firestopping - Monroe, NC

**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](http://www.FCIA.org). Questions? Email [cathy@fcia.org](mailto:cathy@fcia.org) and we'll fill you in.



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