

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 4

FCIA MEMBERS, WE THANK YOU

Your membership dues are for a lot more than 'membership'.

FCIA's promotion of the Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor, Special Inspection Agency, Manufacturer, and Associate members spans the world. Your dues support us building an industry.

If it was not for FCIA's leadership, FM 4991 and UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs would not exist. Firestop Inspection would not exist as we know it today. Why? FCIA's Accreditation Committee volunteers collaborated with FM Approvals to build the FM 4991 Approved Program and with UL to build the UL QFCP Program. We worked with Specifiers and were the proponent for adding firestop inspection to the International Building Code, NFPA 1, references to it in NFPA 101, and much more.

So, from us to you, "Thank you."

Thank you for your continued commitment to properly installed firestop systems. Thank you for your continued commitment to fire and life safety. Thank you for your continued trust and support in FCIA and the important work that we are all doing on a daily basis to provide safer buildings around the world for all.

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FCIA SPREADS THE 'DIIM' IN ONTARIO

FCIA advocates for the 'DIIM' of Firestopping and FCIA Members around the world. Most recently, we've been promoting the Specialty Firestop Installation Contract in Canada.

FCIA's Executive Director, Bill McHugh, & Canada Committee Chair, John Sharpe, were recently in Brampton, ON presenting to a group of Ontario Code Officials. In attendance were Code Officials from the City of Brampton, ON and many other suburban Toronto areas, including many virtual attendees.

What did we cover? Fire-resistance and firestopping! We had a great reception by Code Officials who really do want the right firestopping and passive fire protection systems installed in the right places.



FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS & INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION WELCOMES BMS

FCIA's Barrier Management Symposium (BMS) was the subject of the day for the FFMIA full day program in Miami last month.

The FCIA Barrier Management Symposium™ is a one- or two-day Symposium focused on increasing the awareness about how various Barriers are 'D'esigned, 'I'nstalled, 'I'nsppected and 'M'aintained for long-term fire- and life-safety.

Each educational event features technical education from industry experts on the various elements of Barrier Management, including fire-rated glazing, fire doors, dampers, fire-resistance-

rated and smoke-resistant barriers, and more. Since 2014, the programs have been produced in conjunction with ASHE, UL, and The Joint Commission for various ASHE Regions and Chapters, APPA Chapters, and ICC Chapters around North America.

This March, FCIA was invited to Miami, FL to present a full-day program to the Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association (FFMIA). The event had great speakers, great turnout, and great questions for both Rich Walke and Bill McHugh.

The result? FFMIA members will now request, "Protect that breach with a firestop system," instead of saying, "Seal that hole in the wall."

WILL WE SEE YOU AT ECA '23?



START SPREADING THE NEWS...

Firestop SYSTEMS save lives.

Sounds like such a basic concept, but you know it's not universally understood by those outside the industry that firestopping and effective compartmentation are SYSTEMS. The general lay person perspective is that firestopping is just red goop in a hole. But those in the know understand that it is far more than that.

During the Barrier Management Symposium for FFMIA last month, discussions exchanged between Fire Inspectors, Fire Marshals, Rich Walke, and Bill McHugh brought a new paradigm that needs to be spread. We requested the fire marshals and fire inspectors make a simple change in their request to Building Owners and Managers and construction companies.

Ask for firestop systems.

It might be surprising, but this ASK results in a big difference in what is expected.

Imagine the construction worker being instructed to install a firestop system. Construction worker asks, "Fire-Caulk?"

Code official responds with, "No, a firestop system to extend continuity of the fire-resistance-rated assembly through the

breach/hole."

"What's that", says the construction worker.

"Go visit UL.com/PiQ and find a system, then go buy the products, and install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the listing".

Now, when the worker arrives at the store and asks for a firestop system, what will they find? No UL Product iQ. No knowledge. Just fire-caulk!

The key is to educate as much as you can. Educate the Building Owner and Manager. Educate the AHJ. Educate everyone. The FFMIA Member Inspectors present at the BMS stated that if the Building Owner or Manager is told to, 'Seal that hole' in the fire-resistance-rated assembly, they get a 'sealed hole'. The seal can be foam, gypsum wallboard compound, or caulk, and is not necessarily a system.

The simple request to "Use firestop systems" hopefully results in a firestop system being installed by Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors who understand these critical life-saving systems.

Remember, the scope of work for firestopping is to protect against fire-spread outside the room and provide fire-resistance continuity with a firestop system. Get the system (drawing/recipe) and product(s), and then install the products in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions and the tested and listed system specs.



'The Firestopping Joints Primer Program'

Wednesday, May 17
10:00 am - 11:00 am CDT



FCIA PARTICIPATES AT ASTM

The American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committees develop standards through an open process.

Several firestopping related items were discussed at ASTM in Denver recently. Of note is the NEW Fire-Resistive Ductwork Inspection Standard Practice. This standard practice seems to be moving quickly through the approval process. FCIA provided a negative vote because the inspection does not mandate a visual inspection of each layer of ductwrap. The first layer needs to be verified to verify that it is fire-resistant ductwrap, banded according to the listing, etc., before the second layer is installed. Currently, the standard says to visually inspect, which may result in a wide variety of interpretations and inconsistent inspection. It also leaves the possibility that the first layer of ductwrap is an untested, unlisted material. We look forward to seeing a future ballot that fixes this issue.

In other ASTM discussions, FCIA requested that the firestop material exposure standard (E2785-Standard Test Method for Exposure of Firestop Materials to Severe Environmental Conditions) incorporate a fire-test after the exposure period to verify that the numerical estimate is valid. Over the years,

FCIA has stated that the test standard needs to include cleaning chemicals, oils, and other exposures that the materials are expected to come in contact with during the course of its installed lifetime.

The penetrating item Movement Standard (E3037-Standard Test Method for Measuring Relative Movement Capabilities of Through-Penetration Firestop Systems), passed a few years ago, is starting to be introduced to the marketplace. This movement standard applies when a ceiling that the piping/cable/ductwork is suspended from moves, and a wall supported by a floor does not.



There was discussion and a successful subcommittee ballot for ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 that will add more qualification options for the firestop inspector. The new ASTM E3038-Standard Practice for Assessing and Qualifying Candidates as Inspectors of Firestop Systems and Fire-Resistive Joint Systems, was added as another reference to ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393. This still needs to pass at the ASTM E06 Main Committee level before becoming part of the standard.

Further discussion also took place about ASTM E3157-Standard Guide for Understanding and Using Information Related to Installation of Firestop Systems. FCIA's position is that the ASTM E3157 Guide should not be a substitute for clear, concise manufacturer's installation instructions, product data sheets, and safety data sheets. The manufacturer's instructions should direct firestop contractor installation procedures. They should not be a guide.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| May 9-12 | ECA '23 |
| May 17 | FCIA Webinar |
| May 24-28 | CSC Conference |
| June 14 | FCIA Webinar |
| June 18-22 | NFPA Conference & Expo |
| June 24-27 | BOMA Conference |



GET READY FOR THE NFPA CONFERENCE & EXPO

At this year's [NFPA Conference & Expo](#):

- Learn about the latest cutting-edge developments in building, electrical, and life safety.
- Absorb best-in-class training with continuing education credits (CEUs).
- Take in world-class exhibitors, speakers, and FREE hands-on demonstrations.
- Access knowledge about best practices, codes, and standards via on-site technical experts.
- Discover the latest technologies with fire and life safety products.
- Learn how to comply with code for design, construction, and operation of buildings.

[Click here](#) for more information about the conference current list of exhibitors and to sign up for your FREE ExpoAdvantage™ Pass.



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

- Goley, Inc. - Dupon, IL

FCIA New Associate Members

- Optimum Inspections & Consulting, Inc. - Modesto, CA

FCIA New Friend of Members

- Charleston County - Charleston, SC

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