

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 5

THE FCIA EDUCATION PROGRAM (FEP)

At FCIA's recent Education & Committee Action Conference, Board President Tyler Ferguson addressed the audience with some exciting updates for the FCIA Education Program (FEP).

Tyler opened by announcing a rebrand of the program from the [FCIA Certificate of Achievement Education Program \(FCAEP\)](#) to the [FCIA Education Program \(FEP\)](#). Same content. Same program that establishes competency and expertise in your field. Same earned Certificate of Achievement upon completion of the program. New name that better reflects the program focus: education.

He also reported that FCIA's [Firestop Level 1 Program](#) – 'The ["DIIM" of Firestop for Fire and Life Safety](#)' – has been used by members, AHJs, and Specifiers to gain verified knowledge of the firestopping industry. The robust Firestop Level 1 Program has over 2.5-hours of education followed by quizzes and exams. The FCIA [Firestop Level 2 'Firestop Materials and Systems' Program](#) consists of 14.5-hours of firestop education by product and by system, covering common firestop materials used in firestop systems.

On behalf of the FCIA Education Committee, Tyler announced that FCIA's FEP Firestop Level 3 Course, 'Specifications, Estimating and Project Management', has been recorded and is slated to launch early this summer. Additional programs are also in process.

The Firestop Levels 1 & 2 Programs are generic, educationally-focused, technical programs that have tons of content for companies to build knowledgeable teams of employees who have a career in firestopping. Both programs have been well-received by members in the early testing phase of the launch. FCIA Contractor & Inspection Agency Members, [check out the FCIA FEP](#) and have your company be the best in the industry.

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FCIA NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Upcoming Events

June 7-10	AIA Conference
June 15	FCIA Webinar
June 18-22	NFPA Conference & Expo
June 24-27	BOMA Conference
July 4	FCIA Office Closed



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BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Building Safety Month is an international campaign celebrated in May to raise awareness about building safety.

The International Code Council (ICC) celebrated its [43rd Building Safety Month](#) this May. The month featured weekly safety campaigns focusing on a variety of topics, including:

- Building Safety Starts at Home



- Building Safety Professionals and You
- Prepare Your Community
- Advocate for Your Community
- Solving Challenges Together

Themes included clean water supplies worldwide, safety at home, the importance of building safety professionals including code officials, fire marshals, permit technicians, how current codes can help communities minimize losses from disasters, how building inspections can help protect communities, and of course, building safety worldwide.

The best part of Building Safety Month is the [Building Safety as Told by Kids](#). Check it out.

NASFM ADDRESSES FCIA

Chief Butch Browning, former Louisiana State Fire Marshal and current National Association of State Fire Marshals' Executive Director, presented at ECA '23 about the importance of maintaining passive protection in buildings.

Butch's message was for the firestop industry to be asking questions such as, "What do people think keeps them safe in buildings?"

The industry needs to educate that the answer includes fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assemblies. His charge to the group, "It's time to tell this industry's story about the need for effective compartmentation and fire-resistance".

His final thought to FCIA Members at the conference was about both new construction and maintaining fire-resistance and other protections in new and existing buildings. "When we stop doing



NASFM Executive Director, Chief Butch Browning, addresses the ECA '23 audience this May. FCIA Photo

things, like maintaining protection, bad things happen."

It was an honor to have Chief Browning join the FCIA ECA '23 faculty and thank FCIA Members for doing their part for building safety through proper design, installation, inspection and maintaining protection. We appreciate all that Chief Browning, Phil Oakes, the rest of the NASFM Staff and friends do for protecting people in buildings.

NEW FIRE/ENERGY BUZZ WORDS

Electrification and Decarbonization are two words that seem to be in the news today, but the Energy Codes have been talking about this concept for quite some time.

Electric vehicles, energy storage systems (NFPA 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems), and stretch energy codes all seem to be pointing to more electric use and less fossil fuels utilized. What's this got to do with fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistive assemblies? It has to do with walls, floors, penetrations, joints, and voids.

Many types of batteries are used for auxiliary power in buildings today, including – Lithium Ion (Li) batteries. Li batteries are used as large, uninterruptable power supplies. According to a presentation by Robby Dawson, NFPA Regional Manager, at



NFPA Regional Manager, Robby Dawson, presents on the dangers of Lithium Ion (Li) batteries. FCIA Photos



FCIA's Education and Committee Action Conference in May, 2023, Li batteries have been found to be inherently fragile.

Situation one is when Li energy storage systems (ESS) are moved from below-grade to a higher floor in a building. Where can the storage be, and what protection is now needed for the compartment in which the batteries are moved?

The NFPA 1, 2021 edition states that an ESS can be located no more than 75' above fire department access and no more than 30' below lowest exit discharge. A 1- or 2-hour fire barrier is needed, with the rating depending on the occupancy. Additionally, an ESS needs to be 3' from container walls. There is a limit of 600KWh for Li, sodium, and flow batteries, and all other are limited to 200KWh.

NFPA 1 and NFPA 855 both have size limits and spacing/separation requirements. The ESS' are to be spaced 3' from each other and from the walls that bound the ESS room.

NFPA 70, National Electrical Code, Article 76 covers disconnecting means, installation requirements, and circuit requirements, including overcurrent protection, charge control to prevent failures, and more.

The NFPA 855 covers design, construction, installation, fire protection, fire prevention, commissioning, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of Energy Storage Systems. This standard was published in 2018, which means the 2021 versions of fire codes have references to this standard. Older fire codes do not reference the NFPA 855 standard, which can



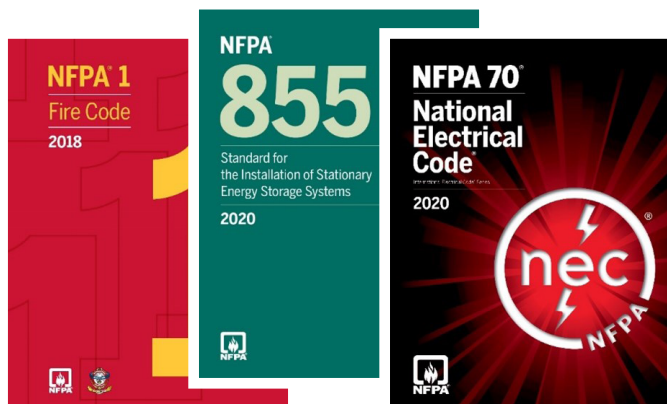
NEW FIRE/ENERGY BUZZ WORDS continued

mean there's a coordination issue in some areas of the world and a need to either adopt a new fire code or to amend the existing fire code.

Watch for ESS construction in your community. Where ESS is installed, cabling and conduit piping will be installed through breaches in fire-resistance-rated and or smoke-resistive assemblies. Multi-story buildings might get 2-hour fire-resistance-rated assemblies. While only a fire barrier with firestop protection of breaches where penetrations are located is required, firestop contractors can consider presenting an L-Rated Firestop System for a quantified level of air leakage (smoke) protection.

ESS Systems are there to serve the building's power needs. Firestop systems, along with the rest of the fire-resistance features, are there to protect the people that occupy the building.

Want to learn more about NFPA 855? Check out [NFPA's 855 page](#) that allows free views of the standard.



NFPA 1, NFPA 855, and NFPA 70 have guidelines for protection of Li energy storage systems (ESS). NFPA Photos

HOSPITALS, FIRESTOPPING, & DNV

The USA's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has requirements for accreditation of hospitals to receive payments from the government for patients covered by these government departments.

DNV Healthcare USA, The Joint Commission (TJC), and Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC, formerly HFAP) are all accreditors of hospitals that are authorized by CMS as deeming authorities for the hospitals to be eligible for CMS patient payments.

DNV's Clint Butts spoke of violations at hospitals related to passive fire protection. He mentioned that written barrier protection plans, missing fireproofing from sections of beams or columns, and door issues – both swinging and trash chutes all seem to be common citations at hospitals.

This is why FCIA exhibits at the American Society for Healthcare Engineering's Annual Conference and developed the Total Fire Protection Systems Symposium and Barrier Management Symposium – to educate our friends in health care facility management about the importance of firestopping and barrier management services in hospitals and all types of buildings. In fact, we partnered with UL Solutions, the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), and The Joint Commission (TJC) to develop the Barrier Management Symposium, which is highly customized for hospitals.

FCIA Members specialize in fire-resistance, firestopping, and barrier management services. Why? Because installation, survey, and repair in accordance with the listing (tested and listed system) and manufacturer's installation instructions is what they do day-in and day-out.



SUSTAINABILITY, GREEN, & FIRESTOPPING

How does sustainability fit into firestop, effective compartmentation, and fire-resistance industries?

During a panel discussion on this topic at ECA '23, Hope Medina, CSP, CBO, of Shums Coda Associates recently presented the answers to this question and the story about sustainability. She should know. She's the co-author of an ICC book on sustainability.

In her program, Hope used words like "green, resiliency, recycling, livability, costly, electrification, green house gas, energy/water nexus, carbon something, use less energy, stewardship, political, and balance" to describe the sustainability concept. Yes, they are ALL things that can reduce energy use.

Firestopping and compartmentation can play a role in this sustainable construction environment. Controlling air movement in buildings, protecting breaches in fire-resistance-rated assemblies with firestop systems, reduced volatile organic content in products applied, recycled material content in products, and transportation distances from factory to jobsite are all considered when determining the "sustainability" of building products.

The panel discussion also mentioned the importance of controlling air movement from the outside into buildings and

inside buildings from room to room.

Former Construction Specifications Institute Chair of the Board Ron Geren, FCSI, AIA, CCS, CCCA, CDT, CSC, SCIP, presented about where to find green and sustainability requirements in specifications. While Firestopping is specified in Division 7, Thermal and Moisture Protection, there are four sections that cover firestopping:

- 07-84-00 Firestopping
- 07-84-13 Penetrations
- 07-84-43 Joint Firestopping
- 07-84-53, Perimeter Fire Containment Systems

The sustainability requirements, though, are located in Division 1. Places to look include:

- 01-35-63 – Sustainability Certification Project Requirements
- 01-35-66 – Sustainability Certification Project Procedures
- 01-35-46 – Indoor Air Quality Procedures
- 01-81-13 – Performance Based Sustainable Design Requirements
- 01-81-19 – Performance Based Indoor Air Quality Requirements

In the specific Division 1 specifications sections, part 1 of the section will cover sustainable design submittals, closeout documentation, and the sustainability standards certifications, while part 2, Products, will handle the sustainability characteristics for the products.

The firestop industry has been improving its chemical impact for decades. Sealant products moved from solvent to latex based materials. Formaldehyde in products is being reduced or eliminated. Ron urged specifiers and firestop contractors to watch for sustainability requirements for firestopping in Division 7 and Division 1 of building specifications.



The panel on Firestopping and Sustainability talks to ECA '23 attendees in NOLA this May. FCIA Photos



UPCOMING DOIT COURSES

QUALIFIED FIRE DOOR INSPECTOR TRAINING & CERTIFICATION (QFDI)

June 26-29

[Richmond Marriott Short Pump](#)

4240 Dominion Blvd.

Glen Allen, VA 23060

\$135/night + tax

[REGISTER](#)

QFDI TRAINING & CERTIFICATION, OPENING INDUSTRY BOOTCAMP, BUILDING A CODE FOUNDATION

September 18-22

[Embassy Suites by Hilton Cincinnati RiverCenter](#)

10 East Rivercenter Boulevard

Covington, KY 41011

\$169/night + tax

[REGISTER](#)

SAFETY & OSHA

The U.S. Department of Labor announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has begun a National Emphasis Program to prevent falls, the leading cause of fatal workplace injuries and the violation the agency cites most frequently in construction industry inspections.

The emphasis program will focus on reducing fall-related injuries and fatalities for people working at heights in all industries. The targeted enforcement program is based on historical Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data and OSHA history. BLS data shows that of the 5,190 fatal workplace injuries in 2021, 680 were associated with falls from elevations, about 13 percent of all deaths.

The program establishes guidance for locating and inspecting fall hazards and allows OSHA Compliance Safety and Health Officers to open inspections whenever they observe someone working at heights. An outreach component of the program will focus on educating employers about effective ways to keep their workers safe. If a compliance officer determines an inspection is not necessary after entering a worksite and observing work activities, they will provide outreach on fall protection and leave the site.

[Learn more about federally required fall protection.](#)



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 Associate Members

- DRS Consulting Ltd. - Winnipeg, MB

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.

Do you know a company that should be an FCIA member? Send them our way at cathy@fcia.org, and we'll follow up (and get you in the running for the Industry Development Award)!



'The 07 84 00 Firestop Spec'

Thursday, June 15
10:00 am - 11:30 am CDT

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