

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 7

24 YEARS OF THE FCIA MISSION

As the Association and industry continues to evolve and progress, so too does the Mission of the FCIA.

FCIA's goals since the birth of the Association in 1999 have been focused on building reliability of installed firestop systems through the 'DIIM' of Firestopping™. This goal has not changed. [The Association's mission](#) proclaimed to the world our goal.

The FCIA's mission is for FCIA Members to be recognized throughout the construction industry as the leading experts and providers of all aspects of high-quality fire and life safety Firestop Systems as a critical part of Effective Compartmentation.

As the Association and industry have continued to evolve and grow, FCIA's focus has expanded to include all effective compartmentation through a variety of initiatives.

What's the result?

- Fire Test Standards exist to qualify products as suitable for use. This results in listings, demanded by the building

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24 YEARS OF THE FCIA MISSION cont'd

codes.

- FM 4991 & UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs are regularly specified.
- ASTM E2174 & ASTM E2393 are required in the International Building Code and NFPA 1, and the mentioned in the appendix of NFPA 101.
- Maintaining Fire-Resistance and Firestopping Protection for the building life cycle is required in the International Fire Code, NFPA 1, and NFPA 101.

As a result of the combination of the FM 4991 Approved, UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractors, and Special Inspection for firestopping, Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors are being used 50% of the time, or more, on projects in North America and worldwide. The quality of installations is increasing, along with fire and life safety in buildings. The industry continues to grow. And so must the Association.

So, we are proud to announce our [new and updated Mission](#), which encompasses our membership, our industry, our work. From Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors to Special Inspection Agencies, Associates to Manufacturers to Distributors,

FCIA Members are the global experts and providers of life safety passive fire and smoke protection systems.

FCIA is about building relationships, both within the industry and outside it, with the ultimate goal of advancing the industry so that our members succeed.

We meant it then, and we mean it now: FCIA stands for the best of the best.

Thank you for being part of our story and continuing to stand with us to grow this industry and change the world.



Upcoming Events

September 17-19	CHES Annual Conference
September 20-22	FCIA-NFCA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium
September 25-27	OBOA Conference
September 27-29	IFMA World Workplace
October 4-6	CSI Conference
October 8-11	ICC Conference & Expo
October 18	FCIA Webinar
October 24-27	FCIA FIC '23 - Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show
October 29- November 1	ASTM E06 Meetings
November 14	FCIA Webinar - Canada
November 15	FCIA Webinar

FCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

FCIA's Board of Directors meets quarterly to monitor FCIA's progress, evaluate programs, and set direction for the future.

FCIA's [Board of Directors](#) met in Portland, ME and looked ahead to the future of the Association and industry. The Board, comprised of Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors from around North America, approached the discussions with one common goal: having FCIA Members be recognized as the industry experts in the field of passive fire and smoke protection systems.

The Board approved several new Committee members, individuals taking action to be part of the FCIA story, and discussed the various Committee actions and activities, including approving opening participation on the Code, Standards, Accreditation, and Education Committees to all interested Voting Members. This is huge news! If you are interested in participating on one (or more) of these Committees, email FCIA Staff.

Among the other items discussed was the recent legislation in Washington state (and possibly also Nevada) regarding worker certification requirements, additional Programs and



FCIA Board of Directors meets in Portland, ME this August to discuss industry issues and Association work. FCIA photo

Courses for the FCIA Education Program, the recent Ductile Iron Pipe and product compatibility statement, the FM and UL-ULC Accreditation Programs, membership, marketing, Codes, Standards...the group covered a lot of ground! They even held a strategic planning session to discuss the next five years, ten years, and farther!

Stay tuned for more updates on where FCIA is heading – to infinity and beyond!



FCIA IS PRESENTING TO ONTARIO BUILDING OFFICIALS

Don't miss the upcoming FCIA Presentation at the [Ontario Building Officials Association Annual Conference](#) in Niagara Falls, Ontario later this month. FCIA and Canada Committee leadership will be on-site presenting two sessions at this important program. The sessions will cover key items when it comes to fire-resistance and firestopping and the National Building Code of Canada which references CAN/ULC-S115, Fire Tests of Firestop Systems.

FCIA & NFCA PARTNER FOR CANADA SYMPOSIUM

Fire-resistance-rated structural and effective compartmentation saves lives.

Structural protection is required when fire separations occur, under supporting construction. It is not one single system that contributes to safer buildings, but rather all the various aspects of fire-resistance-rated structural and effective compartmentation working in tandem that provide fire and life safety.

Recognizing this, the [Firestop Contractors International Association \(FCIA\)](#) and the [National Fireproofing Contractors Association \(NFCA\)](#) have teamed up to produce the [FCIA-NFCA](#)

[Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Canada](#) in Ottawa, ON this September 20-22.

The Symposium features education on structural fire-resistance and firestopping and the National Building Code of Canada. Attendees will also be treated to a tour of the NRC Fire Test Laboratory in Ottawa, ON.

By taking this holistic approach to fire and life safety and by educating those who 'D'esign, 'I'nstall, 'I'nspect, and 'M'aintain fire-resistance, we can transform the fire and life safety landscape, one person, one penetration, one system, one building, one step at a time.

Huge "Thank You" to FCIA Manufacturer Member Sponsors, Construction Specialties and STI, for their support of the Canada and Middle East Symposiums. Their investment in these events not only supports our membership, but also supports the industry. It takes both Contractor and Manufacturer cooperation to grow the industry to improve fire and life safety around the world!



FIRESTOP CONTRACTOR ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW

Third-party firestop contractor accreditation programs are gaining traction!

The value of the FCIA Member, FM 4991 Approved, or UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor comes from the commitment to excellence. These important designations – FM 4991 Approved, UL Qualified, ULC Qualified, AND FCIA Member in Good Standing

– are being recognized by 07 84 00 Firestopping specifications in many occupancies around the world.

The result is an FM 4991 Approved or UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor performing the work about 50% of the time. There are some occupancies and markets where the percentage is higher, some lower.

Third-party accreditation programs started as an idea in 1998 – a desire to globally set a standard for excellence within an industry to improve fire and life safety in buildings around the world. From then to now, it's inspiring to see the Contractor accreditation programs making a difference in the industry and in the built environment.

FIRESTOPPING SPECIAL INSPECTION

Firestop special inspection started from nothing, and look where it is now.

Picture this...Spring, 1999. The FCIA Education and Committee Action Conference.

Someone asked, "Why is there no inspection for firestop systems like fireproofing?"

Mike Pfeiffer, ICC VP of Codes, responded with, "Did you build a standard? And did you submit it to the code development process and get it approved?"

The FCIA answer was a round of "Nos".

Over the next 10 years, FCIA hired a consultant to develop the first draft and worked with manufacturers to create the Standards at ASTM. FCIA submitted the Standards for approval in 2002, 2005,

and 2009/2010, ultimately getting the Standards approved for the 2012 version of the International Building Code.

Now, 24 years later, firestop special inspection is being used in many areas. Inspection agencies are getting accredited in accordance with the International Accreditation Services IAS AC 291. Special inspectors are being approved by Authorities Having Jurisdiction based on their competence and experience in the same type and complexity of materials and projects inspected.

Firestop inspectors are gaining competence through education from the FCIA Education Program, firestop product manufacturer education, and other certifications. Knowledgeable firestop inspection agency personnel find non-conformances, report them, and demand corrections.

It's amazing what can happen when an industry works together to create better installations. Inspection certainly has helped, along with FM 4991 Approved and UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractors. Together, the meat in the 'DIIM' sandwich – 'I'nstallation and 'I'nspection – make firestop installation quality better.

TRAINING TOOLS



Have you heard the big news? The [FCIA Education Program \(FEP\)](#) new Admin Portal and Firestop Level 3 Programs are LIVE! Wut whaaat?!? That's right. Live!!!

The Admin Portal provides your Training Admin with a bird's eye view of your staff's progress through the Firestop FEP Program. Want John to take the Firestop Level 1 and 2 Programs but not Level 3? Want Amanda to take Firestop Levels 1-3? No problem! You register your Staff for the Programs you want them to take and assign the courses by student. Keep track of each student's progress through the course. Manage Certificates of Completion. It's a game-changer for the FEP.

And, we're proud to announce the release of the [Firestop Level 3, 'Specifications, Estimating, & Project Management' Program](#). This program focuses on what to look for in specifications, how the specification translates into estimating, and managing the firestop installation from start to finish. Learn about documentation and things to consider when building proposals, setting up operations, and much more. This program is a high-level program meant for estimation and project management teams.

The time is right. [Subscribe your company today!](#)

IT'S EXHIBITION SEASON... AND FCIA IS HERE FOR IT!

FCIA Exhibits at NASFM

The National Association of State Fire Marshals has a long history of advocacy and outreach to protect the structure's importance and people in buildings in communities around the US. This group is involved in many key areas, including fire-resistance.

FCIA had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting this August, where the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) President Shane Gray stated, "Yes, we even educate a bit about firestopping, Bill!" It's nice to know we're all after the same thing - better fire and life safety in buildings through proper design, installation, inspection and maintaining protection in buildings. That's right...the 'DIIM' of Firestopping!

Many thanks FCIA Education Committee Member Patrick Hord for working the booth!

FCIA Promotes Fire-Resistance at ASHE

FCIA's booth at the American Society for Healthcare Engineering had visits from many ASHE and industry leaders. It was nice to see FCIA Manufacturer Members Hilti, Inc. and Specified Technologies, Inc. educating facility directors about the importance of firestopping in hospitals.

FCIA looks forward to presenting at various healthcare organizations in the future.

FCIA, Active with ICC

FCIA has been involved in code development for quite some time. We exhibit at the ICC Expo to meet with code officials, understand their needs, and see how FCIA's programs can further their goals for better fire and life safety in their communities.

The 2023 International Code Council Conference and Expo, taking place October 8-11 in St. Louis, is the Code Council's premier event where attendees can explore many valuable career building opportunities, learn from experts and earn valuable CEUs, connect with other professionals from around the globe, see the newest building safety materials and methods, and much more, including seeing FCIA! This year's keynote speaker is Tamara Robertson, engineer, STEM advocate and star of the MythBusters television show.

FCIA Presents at CSI

FCIA is honored to speak at the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) Conference in Minneapolis, Oct. 4. Specifiers have always been a special group to FCIA. Since 2000, FCIA has spoken at both CSI Conferences and Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) Conferences.

Our initial presentations in 2000 were about our plans, still just ideas that needed action and implementation. We bounced the idea of the 'DIIM' of Firestopping off the Specifiers, who urged us to move forward with our objectives. We did and look where we've ended up.

We appreciate the relationships we have with our friends at CSI and CSC.

FCIA Brings the 'DIIM' to Facility Managers

IFMA's World Workplace® is the marquee facility management event for all facility professionals working in the built environment. Whether you're a facility manager, property manager, work in human resources (HR), construction, or are a vendor or service provider to the facilities management industry, World Workplace is the must-attend event for incredible thought-leadership, networking, education, and lead-generating opportunities.

Grow your professional career or business by connecting with the greatest minds and incredible people in facility management. And, while you're there, hob knob with FCIA and learn about the 'DIIM' story at our booth!

Life Safety Digest Partners with OFSEC

OFSEC 2023 is designed to meet the needs of the local, regional and international markets by linking practitioners, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers from the fire, safety, HSE and security industries. The 2-day Exhibition & Summit sees participation from a large number of exhibitors from over 30 countries. The Summit features an expansive line-up of stellar speakers, case studies, panel discussions, and unique presentations providing access to a wealth of industry leading knowledge and actionable takeaways. And *Life Safety Digest* will be there, right in the middle of the action.



'Gettin' Greasy with Grease Duct Enclosures'
with Rich Walke (CTI) and Mike Kerrison (Alkegen)

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
10:00 am - 11:00 am CDT



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

- Calvert Specialties LLC - Owings, MD
- Klover Contracting - Quakertown, PA
- Maine Fire Protection Services - Bangor, ME
- Novant Health Inc. - Winston-Salem, NC
- Osorno Group Corp. - Doral, FL
- Pacific Systems Interiors, Inc. - San Dimas, CA
- Tri-Phase Interiors LLC - Wylie, TX

FCIA New Contractor Branch Members

- DPR Nashville - Nashville, TN

FCIA New Associate Members

- Cerco Cable - Mississauga, ON

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)!



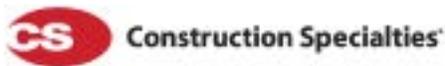
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