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Join us in thanking our Sponsors for their generous support of this year's educational program, activities, and amenities.





A WORD FROM FCIA'S BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 25[™] Anniversary FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show, FIC '24.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each of you for being a part of our Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) family. Through your involvement in the FCIA, you are not only pushing a new and exciting industry forward, but you are also supporting an industry that truly can save lives.

Firestopping has been an integral part of my life since 2001. What started out as a way to support my young family has grown into a passion to cultivate the industry and push the Firestopping and Passive Fire Protection industry in new ways across, not only the United States, but the entire world.



The relationships and education I have gained from the FCIA, not

only personally but also in business, have been instrumental in my life. The honor to give back to this organization so that others may experience the same has been fulfilling to say the least.

It has truly been a genuine honor to serve as the 2024 FCIA Board President.

There are so many people that have volunteered their time and energy to build the industry we have today, "Thank you." You are seeing the fruits of your labor.

"Thank you" to all those who have served on the FCIA Board of Directors and to Bill, Lindsey, Cathy, Lissette, and the incredible team we have completing the work. It is a more daunting task than you'd ever believe, and they do it with a smile on their faces.

The FCIA has numerous incredible events planned for 2025. Be ready, you won't want to miss any of them. (And you'll want to bring the significant other to all of them!)

Before I hand over the gavel, I challenge each person to join an FCIA Committee and be more than a spectator in the Association, in YOUR Association. The FCIA will only continue to grow with the efforts of the next generation. Step up and invest in FCIA and do your part in continuing to change and mold our industry. New faces bring new ideas and excitement to the room.

In closing, THANK YOU. The FCIA would not be as successful and impactful without each of you!

Enjoy the event and thank you for your commitment to the FCIA! Here's to a great 2025!

Alan Mcdurmon, 2024 FCIA Board President



For the Association to thrive and grow, it needs good leaders, strong leadership. FCIA's Board of Directors is a very diverse and passionate group of Contractors. Each person has chosen to give back to the Association through serving on the Board, participating on Committee(s), and more.

PRESIDENT

Alan Mcdurmon, DRI Performance Contracting, Inc. alan.mcdurmon@pcg.com

VICE PRESIDENT Gus Mancini, DRI Gleeson Powers gus@gpi-firestop.com

<u>SECRETARY</u> Joe Wilkinson, DRI ARC Firestop Solutions, Inc. jwilkinson@arc-md.com

TREASURER

Mark Dietz Superl, Inc. mark@superl.net

PAST PRESIDENT Tyler Ferguson, DRI National Firestopping Solutions tylerf@nefirestop.com

PAST PAST PRESIDENT Jerry Dugan, Jr. Firestopping Specialist jerryduganjr@gmail.com DIRECTORS

Jay McGuire, DRI Fire Stop Technologies, Inc. jay@thornburgh-stl.com

Darren Pollock, DRI JD Firestop Pros, Inc. dpollock@jdfirestoppros.com

Ben Urcavich, DRI Performance Firestop Inc. ben@performance-firestop.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Lindsey Dutkiewicz lindsey@FCIA.org

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Bill McHugh bill@FCIA.org FCIA Committees are comprised of FCIA Member volunteers who work together on various pieces of Association business, from Codes and Standards development to Marketing outreach and more. This collaboration is how we gain industry consensus on issues related to the improvement of fire and life safety in buildings around the globe and how we create opportunities for the growth of our industry.

Consider volunteering your time and talents with one of the following Committees. Contact the Committee Chair(s) or cathy@FCIA.org for additional information or to inquire about Joining a Committee. Detailed descriptions of each Committee can be found at www.FCIA.org/ABOUT-FCIA/Committees.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair Performance Firestop, Inc. ben@performance-firestop.com Tyler Ferguson, DRI - Co-Vice Chair National Firestopping Solutions tylerf@nefirestop.com

Tracy Smith, DRI - Co-Vice Chair Firestop Southwest, Inc. tracys@firestopsouthwest.com

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair Performance Firestop, Inc. ben@performance-firestop.com

CANADA COMMITTEE

John Sharpe Pro-Firestop, Inc. john@profirestop.com Corey Beckett - Vice Chair Beyond Thermal corey.b@beyondgroup.ca

CODE COMMITTEE

Tracy Smith, DRI - Chair Firestop Southwest, Inc. tracys@firestopsouthwest.com

Scott Rankin, DRI - Vice Chair American National Insulation, Inc. dba Insulation Contractors scott.rankin@truteam.com



FCIA COMMITTEES NEED YOU...(TO JOIN AND GET INVOLVED)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tyler Ferguson, DRI - Chair National Firestopping Solutions tylerf@nefirestop.com Aideen Doneski - Vice Chair Gleeson Powers, Inc. aideen@gpi-firestop.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Scott Rankin, DRI - Chair American National Insulation, Inc. dba Insulation Contractors scott.rankin@truteam.com Mark Dietz - Vice Chair Superl, Inc. mark@superl.net

INSPECTION COMMITTEE

Gus Mancini, DRI - Chair Gleeson Powers, Inc. gus@gpi-firestop.com Tracy Smith, DRI - Vice Chair Firestop Southwest, Inc. tracys@firestopsouthwest.com

INTERNATIONAL TASK GROUP

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair Performance Firestop, Inc. ben@performance-firestop.com Tyler Ferguson, DRI - Vice Chair National Firestopping Solutions tylerf@nefirestop.com

LIFE SAFETY DIGEST COMMITTEE

Scott Rankin, DRI - Chair American National Insulation, Inc. dba Insulation Contractors scott.rankin@truteam.com

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair Performance Firestop, Inc. ben@performance-firestop.com

Alan Mcdurmon, DRI - Co-Vice Chair Performance Contracting, Inc. alan.mcdurmon@pcg.com

Mike Pautsch, DRI - Co-Vice Chair Superl, Inc. mike@superl.net







FCIA COMMITTEES NEED YOU...(TO JOIN AND GET INVOLVED)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Dietz - Chair Superl, Inc. mark@superl.net Jerry Dugan, Jr. - Vice Chair Firestopping Specialist jerryduganjr@gmail.com

MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE

No Chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Alan Mcdurmon, DRI - Co-Chair Performance Contracting, Inc. alan.mcdurmon@pcg.com Jerry Dugan, Jr. - Co-Vice Chair Firestopping Specialist jerryduganjr@gmail.com

Scott Rankin, DRI - Co-Vice Chair American National Insulation, Inc. dba Insulation Contractors scott.rankin@truteam.com

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Jay McGuire, DRI - Chair Fire Stop Technologies, Inc. jay@thornburgh-stl.com Tracy Smith, DRI - Vice Chair Firestop Southwest, Inc. tracys@firestopsouthwest.com

TECHNICAL & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Bob Hasting, DRI - Chair Specialty Firestop Systems rhasting@specialtyfirestop.com Ken Slama, DRI - Vice Chair National Firestop Ltd. kslama@nationalfirestop.com

TE TASK GROUP: FCIA MANUAL OF PRACTICE (MOP)

Ken Slama, DRI - Chair National Firestop Ltd. kslama@nationalfirestop.com



COLOR LEGEND

DESERT SUITES 2-3

FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams FM & UL Firestop Exams

FIESTA BALLROOM General Sessions Exhibits Receptions LAS PALMAS A-D Expansion Joint Demos FCIA Casino Royale Anniversary Award Dinner & Casino Night

EVENT MAP

SUNRISE TERRACE
 Luncheon

WALKING ROUTE TO GOLF





WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

EDUCATION FOR THE FM & UL FIRESTOP EXAMS

FCIA's Education for the Firestop Exams helps prepare Specialty Firestop Contractors and Special Inspectors to pass the FM or UL Firestop Exams. Passing the Firestop Exam(s) is required for Firestop Contractors pursuing FM 4991 Approved or UL Solutions Qualified Firestop status and for Firestop Inspectors to prove competence to AHJ's or International Accreditation Services IAS AC 291 Special Inspection Agency responsible individual status.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 DESERT SUITES 2

All times listed are in PDT

7:30 am - 2:00 pm **Registration Open** 7:30 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast for FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams Attendees Sponsored by FCIA 8:00 am - 8:30 am FCIA: The Vision, The Mission, The Association **Open to all FCIA FIC Conference Attendees** Bill McHugh, FCIA 8:30 am - 10:00 am FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exams Rich Walke, CTI 10:00 am - 10:15 am Break Sponsored by FCIA 10:15 am - 11:30 am FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams (continued) 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Quality Management System Manual Development: A How-To Session Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions | Rich Walke, CTI Luncheon for FM & UL Firestop Exam Testers 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm Sponsored by Balco 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm FM & UL Firestop Exams Note: The UL Firestop Exam is OPEN BOOK exams. UL Exam Participants MUST provide their own copy of the FCIA Manual of Practice. The UL Canadian Supplement covers questions specific to Canada. The FM Firestop Exam DOES NOT allow use of the MOP during the exam.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 FIESTA BALLROOM

All times listed are in PDT

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Welcome Reception Attendees, Spouses, Guests, and Speakers Welcome Sponsored by Specified Technologies Inc.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

FIESTA BALLROOM All times listed are in PDT 7:30 am - 11:00 am **Conference Registration Open** 7:30 am - 11:30 am **Trade Show Floor Open** 7:30 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors Sponsored by Thermafiber 8:00 am - 8:20 am FCIA President's Welcome, Association Comments, & Board Candidate Introductions Alan Mcdurmon, 2024 FCIA Board President | Bill McHugh, FCIA 8:20 am - 9:45 am Software Demo Session Clearstory | Corfix | Field Materials | Fieldwire | U.S. CAD 9:45 am - 10:15 am Break Sponsored by MM Systems 10:15 am - 11:30 am **Communicate in Full Color** Scott Schwefel. Discover Yourself

Keynote Session Sponsored by Performance Contracting, Inc.

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS GOLF CLUB

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm FCIA Memorial Golf Tournament Pre-registration Required

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS CONFERENCE LOBBY

12:45 pm - 4:30 pm Legends & Icons Outing **Pre-registration Required**

FIESTA BALLROOM

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Networking Reception & Golf Awards Attendees, Spouses, Guests, and Speakers Welcome Sponsored by Balco

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WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 FIESTA BALLROOM

7:30 am – 3:30 pm	Conference Registration Open
7:30 am – 4:15 pm	Trade Show Floor Open
7:30 am – 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors Sponsored by Thermafiber
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Dr. Basu's Fantabulous Economic Update (VIRTUAL) Dr. Anirban Basu, Sage Policy Group
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Break Sponsored by Inpro
10:00 am – 10:45 am	How to Save 5-10% in Material Costs with the Help of Al Victor Gane, Field Materials, Inc.
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break Sponsored by National Guard Products
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Field Challenges & Solutions for Fire-Rated Expansion Joints Robert Belvin, Construction Specialties Steve Cooper, Balco Jacob Leberer, MM Systems Scott Rankin, ANI dba ICI Ben Stys, Inpro
SUNRISE TERRACE	
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	FCIA Luncheon Sponsored by Specified Technologies Inc.
LAS PALMAS BALLRO	OM A-D
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Demo Workshop - Expansion Joints Balco Construction Specialties Inpro MM Systems

All times listed are in PDT

FIESTA BALLROOM

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Break Sponsored by Construction Specialties
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	The Partner Programs: Updates and Common Audit Findings Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals Ruben Sandoval, Jr., UL Solutions
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Exhibitor Member Updates

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All times listed are in PDT

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break
	Sponsored by Hilti

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Closed Contractor & Inspection Agency Session Mass Timber Firestopping: Containing Fire in Combustible Compartments Tim Mattox, Specified Technologies Inc.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm FCIA Contractor Members Only Session

LAS PALMAS BALLROOM A-D

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm The FCIA Casino Royale Anniversary Awards Dinner & Casino Night *Included with Attendee Conference registration* Spouses, Guests, Children, and Speakers Welcome. Additional fees apply for spouses, guests, and children. Sponsored by ROCKWOOL Prizes Sponsored by Performance Contracting, Inc. - Atlanta

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024 FIESTA BALLROOM

7:30 am - 9:30 am	Conference Registration Open
7:30 am – 11:00 am	Trade Show Floor Open
7:30 am – 8:00 am	FCIA Continental Breakfast with Exhibitors Sponsored by 3M
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Break the Code: A Dive Into the Current Code Development Cycle Bill Koffel, Koffel Associates Bill McHugh, FCIA Rich Walke, CTI
8:45 am – 9:15 am	Break Sponsored by ROCKWOOL
9:15 am – 10:15 am	HCAI/OSHPD Updates, Engineering Judgements, and Special Inspections Nanci Timmins, HCAI/OSHPD
10:15 am – 11:00 am	Ignite Your Digital Presence: Boosting Business Through Social Media Zack Seipert
11:00 am	FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show Ends

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

8:00 am - 8:30 am FCIA: The Vision, The Mission, The Association

Bill McHugh, FCIA

What exactly does Firestop Contractors International Association do? In this session, you'll learn about the origins of the FCIA, what our mission and guiding principles are, and how we advocate and work to further the industry. But most importantly, you'll learn how you can do your part to grow the firestop and effective compartmentation industry.

8:30 am - 11:30 am

FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exams Rich Walke, CTI

The FM & UL Firestop Exams are based on FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice (MOP), the FM & UL program guides, and systems selection and analysis. These exams are used for contractor personnel to become FM 4991 Approved Contractor and UL Qualified Contractor Program DRIs.

For Special Inspectors, passing the exam proves firestopping competency to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), required by the IBC's Chapter 17. Passing an exam is also a requirement in IAS AC 291 for the Inspector to become a Responsible Person. The FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams education sessions help prepare individuals and support individual preparation for these rigorous exams, further strengthening and developing firestopping knowledge.

*This program IS NO SUBSTITUTE for reading FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice and studying the FM & UL program guides and systems selection and analysis before the exams.

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Quality Management System Manual Development: A How-To Session Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions | Rich Walke, CTI

This session takes an in-depth look at the Quality Management System Manual requirements for the FM 4991 Approved, UL Solutions Qualified Firestop Contractor, and IAS AC 291 Accreditation programs. The session also provides tips and a framework for structuring and writing a comprehensive QMS Manual.

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm FM & UL Firestop Exams

Note: The UL Firestop Exam is OPEN BOOK exams. UL Exam Participants MUST provide their own copy of the FCIA Manual of Practice. The UL Canadian Supplement covers questions specific to Canada. The FM Firestop Exam DOES NOT allow use of the MOP during the exam.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

8:00 am - 8:20 am

FCIA President's Welcome, Association Comments, & Board Candidate Introductions Alan Mcdurmon, 2024 FCIA Board President | Bill McHugh, FCIA

Hear from the 2024 Board President and meet the 2024 Board of Directors candidates. Then, hear about all the exciting new things happening at FCIA.

8:20 am - 9:45 am Software Demo Session

Looking for a software solution for Change Orders? Bids? The make sure to attend this software demo session where software providers provide real-time demos, then make time to meet with them during the trade show.

10:15 am - 11:30 am

Communicate in Full Color Scott Schwefel, Discover Yourself

Join Speaker and Entrepreneur Scott Schwefel for an engaging keynote to learn about how people really do communicate in color.

Scott will stretch how we use our brains to understand others and offer a system to help us better understand ourselves and each other to improve relationships and maximize productivity. You will come away energized and know yourself and others better through the language of Insights Discovery.

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm FCIA Memorial Golf Tournament

Proceeds from the tournament and sponsorships fund the FCIA President's Memorial Scholarship(s) for FPE and CM students.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

8:00 am - 9:30 am Dr. Basu's Fantabulous Economic Update (VIRTUAL) Dr. Aniban Basu, Sage Policy Group

You've heard about the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. Check back in to see just how right (or wrong) Dr. Basu's predictions were.

This presentation will update you on the state of global and U.S. economies, examine current conditions in the context of economists' predictions, and try (again) to shed light on what's to come.

10:00 am - 10:45 am How to Save 5-10% in Material Costs with the Help of Al Victor Gane, Field Materials, Inc.

This session will discuss how AI can help contractors save 5-10% in material and equipment rental costs. We start the talk by outlining the challenges that contractors face with spending today, then provide a breakdown of costs contractors incur when processing material and equipment orders. After this, the session will evaluate how the most recent advances in AI technology (Large Language Models similar to OpenAI's GPT) can automate verification of spending and eliminate manual data entry.

11:00 am -12:00 pm

Field Challenges & Solutions for Fire-Rated Expansion Joints Robert Belvin, Construction Specialties | Steve Cooper, Balco | Jacob Leberer, MM Systems | Scott Rankin, ANI dba ICI | Ben Stys, Inpro

This panel of expansion joint experts comes together to address your burning questions on expansion joints.

We'll start with a look at expansion joints and different types of fire barriers. Then, the



panel analyzes various real-world examples of expansion joint installations and how to handle field challenges. Finally, we'll wrap up with an interactive Q&A session.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Demo Round Robin - Expansion Joints Balco | Construction Specialties | Inpro | MM Systems

In this small group round robin, attendees will rotate between four action stations covering everything about fire rated expansion Joint conditions, from measuring joint sizes, linear splicing sections, foam seal to blanket transitions, floor to wall transitions, and more. Visit each action station to learn each manufacturer's approach to the field challenges you encounter every day.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

The Partner Programs: Updates and Common Audit Findings Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

Both the FM 4991 Approved and the UL Solutions Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs are third-party company accreditation programs that result in an accredited Specialty Firestop Contractor <u>company</u>.

This session looks at program updates for each, as well as covers common findings during the program audit process. Learn what to do (and not to do) to ensure passing your field audit.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Exhibitor Member Updates

FIC '24 exhibitors take the stage to announce new products and company news!

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Closed Contractor & Inspection Agency Session

Mass Timber Firestopping: Containing Fire in Combustible Compartments Tim Mattox, Specified Technologies Inc.

The IBC Code made massive changes between 2018 and 2021 to include tall wood buildings built of mass timber. This presentation covers the challenges that face us as firestoppers when we transition from traditional construction to mass timber construction.

We start by showing the unique materials that differentiate mass timber projects from traditional projects and then discuss the code changes driving the increase in mass timber construction. We discover why wood is a good building material even though it is strange and combustible, and we finish by illustrating how fire-resistance in mass timber is calculated and what fire tests of mass timber assemblies look like.

GOAI

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm FCIA Contractor Members Only Session

Let your voice be heard in this FCIA Contractor Members Only session. Ask questions. Provide input. Address your Board and Leadership. Put this session to work for you.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

8:00 am - 8:45 am

Break the Code: A Dive Into the Current Code Development Cycle Bill Koffel, Koffel Associates | Bill McHugh, FCIA | Rich Walke, CTI

The session will review the recent results of the proposals submitted by FCIA and those that may affect FCIA Members at the Fall ICC Public Comment Hearings.

9:15 am - 10:15 am

HCAI/OSHPD Updates, Engineering Judgements, and Special Inspections Nanci Timmins, OSHPD

Engineering Judgements...A hot topic!

There is often a need for a means to properly address unanticipated construction configurations that fall outside of the envelope of the assembly that was tested. A component differing from the specific assembly tested can alter the results of the test and could result in failure in fire conditions.

Are Engineering judgements (EJs) the only option when a listed, approved assembly is not available? And what do EJ submittals to OSHPD/HCAI need to include?

Then, what happens when a fire starts over firestopping?

There have been changes in what is acceptable training for special inspectors. Why did it keep changing? What is acceptable training for OSHPD/HCAI?



THROUGH WALL PENETRATIONS









EDGE OF SLAB

HEAD OF WALL

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SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

After this discussion, attendees will:

- Further understand the options for submittals when no listed, approved assembly is available.
- 2. Further understand what documentation is required for EJ submittals to OSHPD/ HCAI.
- 3. Understand what qualifications are needed for a special inspector for OSHPD/ HCAI.

10:15 am - 11:00 am

Ignite Your Digital Presence: Boosting Business Through Social Media Zack Seipert

In today's competitive landscape, even highly specialized industries like Firestop can benefit from a strategic social media presence. This session is designed to help Firestop professionals navigate the world of social media, particularly in the B2B space, where building trust and authority is essential.

Whether you're new to digital marketing or looking to refine your existing strategies, you'll learn practical approaches to connect with key decision-makers, showcase your expertise, and build relationships through platforms like LinkedIn, YouTube, and more.

Anirban Basu, MPP, MA, JD, Ph.D., Chairman and CEO



Anirban Basu is Chairman & CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc., a Baltimore-based economic and policy consultancy he founded in 2004. He serves the Chief Economist function for many organizations, including the Maryland Bankers Association and Associated Builders and Contractors.

The Baltimore Business Journal named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010. In 2022, he entered the Daily Record newspaper's Circle of Influence. He is the Distinguished Economist in Residence at Goucher College, where he teaches History of Economic Thought.

He holds four graduate degrees, including a J.D. and a Ph.D.

Sage Policy Group, Inc. 575 South Charles Street Suite 505 Baltimore, MD 21201

T: +1 410.522.7243 E: abasu@sagepolicy.com



Robert Belvin, PE, Senior Product Development Manager

Robert James Belvin, P.E. is the Senior Product Development Manager for Construction Specialties, with 20 years of engineering experience.

Mr. Belvin is licensed as a Professional Engineer in 18 states throughout the Northeast, South, and West regions of the U.S. He is a subject matter expert in seismic joint, fire-resistant mechanical joints, and movement disciplines.

Construction Specialties 6696 State Route 405 Muncy, PA 17756 USA

T: + 1 570.419.9695 E: rbelvin@c-sgroup.com



Steve Cooper, Vice President of Spec Development and Training

Steve Cooper is Vice President of Spec Development and Training for Building Safety products with CSW Industrials, headquartered in Dallas, TX. He has extensive experience in Manufacturing Operations, Sales, and Product Design, as well as Technical and Executive level management. He works with Architects and Engineers to develop proper specifications and designs using life safety and fire-rated products on large commercial and institutional projects. Steve also has several years' experience as an independent third-party inspector for Intertek and Omega Point laboratories.

Mr. Cooper is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University School of Engineering Technology and Tabor College School of Business.

Balco 2601 Spenwick Drive Houston, TX 77055

T: +1 713.263.8001 E: steve.cooper@balcousa.com



MEET THE FACULTY



Victor Gane, Co-Founder, COO

Victor Gane is a serial entrepreneur who has co-founded several venture funded software companies. Victor is currently the COO and Co-Founder of Field Materials, the world's first material purchasing software powered by AI.

He holds a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford, and his research was widely published, as well as featured at GoogleX. Prior to Stanford, Victor was a studio head at SOM, where he led the design of several award-winning international projects, including Cayan tower in Dubai.

Victor has climbed some of the tallest mountains in North America, including Pico de Orizaba (18,500'), Iztaccihuatl (17,159'), Rainier (14,417'), Grand Teton (13,775').

Field Materials, Inc. 3790 El Camino Real #1175 Palo Alto, CA 95119

T: +1 650.265.8449 E: victor@fieldmaterials.com



William E. Koffel, P.E., FSFPE, Sr. Director of Special Projects

Bill Koffel is President and Senior Director of Special Projects of Koffel Associates, a fire protection and life-safety engineering design and consulting firm. He is recognized as an expert in the fire protection and life-safety aspects of Codes and Standards.

Headquartered in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, Koffel Associates Inc. provides services and support in the following areas: consulting; engineering design & construction administration; Codes & Standards development; seminar development & training; product testing & evaluation/representation; and litigation support to public and private clients worldwide.

Bill remains active in the development process of the industry's governing Codes, Standards and design guidelines, including International Code Council (ICC), NFPA, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). A former Code Official with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, Mr. Koffel is a Past President and Fellow of the SFPE.

Koffel Associates, Inc. 8815 Centre Park Dr., Suite 200 Columbia, MD 21045-2107

T: +1 410.750.2246 E: wkoffel@koffel.com

Jacob Leberer, Engineering & Estimating Manager

Jacob Leberer is a dedicated Engineering and Estimating Manager with extensive experience in the Expansion Joint Industry. He has worked in various roles that have honed his expertise in Firestopping, including New Product Design, Engineering, Estimating, & Management.

Jacob's career has been driven by a passion for continuous learning, allowing him to stay ahead of industry trends and integrate new technologies and practices into each department he manages. As a Structural Design Adjunct Instructor who believes in a hands-on, collaborative approach to teaching as well, he has had the privilege of guiding and empowering others, sharing his knowledge, and fostering growth in young individuals. This has helped him dial in my communication and multitasking skills for both my personal and professional life.

MM Systems 908 Niagara Falls Blvd., Suite 207 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

T: +1 706.824.7563 E: j.leberer@mmsystemscorp.com

Scott MacGovern, Approvals Engineer

Scott MacGovern is an Approvals Engineer at FM Approvals. He has been a part of the Materials Group within FM Approvals for 2.5 years and has been working with firestop, Specialty Firestop Contractors, and the FCIA since joining in 2022.

Prior to joining FM Approvals, Scott worked for 5 years as a Project Manager at an HVAC contractor in the Boston area completing retrofit and design-build projects for various healthcare, educational, and pharmaceutical facilities.

Scott grew up in Rhode Island, spending summers on the water and winters on the slopes of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. He attended Roger Williams University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

FM Approvals 1 Technology Way Norwood, MA 02062

T: +1 781.255.4225 E: scott.macgovern@fmapprovals.com







MEET THE FACULTY



Tim Mattox, Sr. Manager of Systems & Testing Development

Tim Mattox is a 1994 graduate from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. During his 30 year career he has served in various technical roles with manufacturers and testing laboratories, with the last 8 years working for Specified Technologies. Mr. Mattox has spent considerable time working with standards writing organizations on a global basis – chairing task groups and developing test standards for UL, ASTM, and assisted NCFM for the People's Republic of China to develop fire test standards for plastic pipe penetrations. In 2012 and 2013, Mr. Mattox served as the US Head of Delegation for ISO TC 163 – Thermal Performance and Energy Use in the Built Environment. Mr. Mattox was recently invited as a guest speaker on the subject of Firestopping in Mass Timber Construction to the 2023 International Seminar of Passive Protection in São Paulo, Brazil.

In a temporary departure from passive fire protection, Mr. Mattox designed and constructed a 3600 sq. ft. state-of-the-art air and water leakage testing laboratory which was used collaboratively with Oak Ridge National Laboratories and the Air Barrier Association of America. It was during this time he worked with UL to establish Exterior Wall Components (FWFX) and Systems (FWFO) Categories, which marries air and water performance with flame spread resistance for exterior walls. Mr. Mattox has been active in leadership roles for several trade associations, holding officer positions with the Air Barrier Association of America as well as the International Firestop Council where he currently serves as Treasurer.

Specified Technologies Inc. 210 Evans Way Somerville, NJ 08876

T: +1 330.321.7435 E: tmattox@stifirestop.com



Bill McHugh, Technical Director



Bill McHugh is the Technical Director of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) and National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA).

Bill participates in the Code Development processes at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), International Code Council (ICC), State of Illinois, and City of Chicago. He has served on the ICC's 'Fire Safety' Code Development Committee, serves on the Fire Protection Features Committee at NFPA, and is a past member of the International Accreditation Services (IAS) Board of Directors. At the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), he served as organizer and moderator for the ASHE/TJC/FCIA/UL Barrier Management Symposiums, educating thousands. He is a past Institute Director, Chapter President (No.IL), and Region President (North Central) at the Construction Specifications Institute.

Bill also contributes and is the publisher of *Life Safety Digest, the Magazine of Effective Compartmentation*, is principal author of the FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice, NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge, and other documents. He presents at industry events locally, nationally, and internationally, and liaisions with many other Associations.

FCIA 800 Roosevelt Road, Bldg C-312 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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Ruben Sandoval, Jr., Business Manager, Field Engineering Group

Ruben Sandoval, Jr. is the Business Manager in the Field Engineering Group. He is based in Arizona. The Field Engineering Group focuses on assisting clients to navigate increasingly complex supply chains and manufacture safe, highperforming products. The group conducts more than 600,000 inspections, audits, field evaluations, and product traceability services for clients in more than 120 countries. Field Engineering is leading the effort to both modernize how UL Solutions partners with clients through technology and the use of data and analytics to drive enhanced field-related decisions.

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Ruben joined UL as a Field Engineer in 2000. Ruben has over 20 years of experience in the safety engineering fire and life safety arena. Under Ruben's leadership the fire and life safety arena has seen the development of UL's Master Audit Certificate of Compliance (MACC), UL Fire Door Inspection program, and UL's Special Inspection of Firestop program.

Ruben holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and Masters in Business Administration Degree.

UL Solutions 333 Pfingsten Road Northbrook, IL 60062

T: +1 480.290.6987 E: ruben.sandovaljr@ul.com



Scott Schwefel, Speaker, Entrepreneur

Scott Schwefel founded Minnesota's largest technology training company in 1995, Benchmark Computer Learning, and then sold Benchmark in 2003. He used Insights Discovery to help build his business, and his company was named one of the 50 fastest growing private companies in Minnesota in 1997 and 1998. He was named to Minnesota's 40 under 40 lists of successful top executives in the year 2001.

As a professional speaker, Scott brings the magic of Insights Discovery to thousands around the world. He is a published author, and has presented in Paris, London, Geneva, Amsterdam, Shanghai, and throughout North America. He has personally trained over 4000 CEOs as a highly-rated Vistage Speaker, the largest CEO membership organization in the world.

Discover Yourself 684 Excelsior Blvd., Suite 100 Excelsior, MN 55331

T: +1 800.688.5850 E: scott@DiscoverYourself.com

Zack Seiptert, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Zack Seipert is the Marketing & Communications Specialist for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and co-author of "The Most Amazing Marketing Book Ever." Zack knows how to get important messages seen, heard, and understood in today's fast-paced world.

He has a bachelor's degree in Digital Marketing from Utah Valley University and currently serves as the Council President for the Government Social Media Professional Association.

Find him online at zackseipert.com and on LinkedIn @zack-seipert.

Zack Seipert Santaquin, UT T: +1 385.277.0225 E: zack@zackseipert.com

Mark St. Onge, Senior Field Engineer, Fire Protection Specialist

Mark St. Onge has over 20 years of experience within the construction industry.

Mark served in the US Air Force building air bases across the world. Upon leaving the military, he continued to serve while joining the fire service in structural & wildland firefighting and as an EMT. Utilizing his knowledge of construction and fire, Mr. St. Onge expanded into the Special Inspection of building construction.

Mr. St. Onge is the Lead Field Engineer for the UL Firestop Special Inspection program. He is responsible for performing a variety of field inspections and for training new inspectors internally within UL.

Mr. St. Onge also provides education on firestop and fire rated construction to municipalities and code officials across the nation on behalf of UL.

UL LLC 12 Laboratory Drive Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

T: +1 804.243.3646 E: mark.st.onge@ul.com







MEET THE FACULTY



Ben Stys, Product Manager - JointMaster

Ben Stys is the Product Manager for Inpro's Expansion Joint Systems Division – JointMaster. Ben specialized in expansion joint fire barriers and has 20 years of experience in engineering and manufacturing expansion joint cover systems and fire barrier systems.

For the first nine years of his career at Inpro, Ben worked in the Estimating Department performing takeoffs for expansion joint systems. This allowed him to gain technical proficiency in expansion joints, as well as plan and detail reading. For the last eleven years, Ben has worked in product management and enjoys the challenges that are unique to the expansion joint industry.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville.

Inpro S80 W18766 Apollo Drive Muskego, WI 53510

T: +1 262.679.9010 x 5137 E: bstys@inprocorp.com



Nanci Timmins, Chief Fire and Life Safety Officer

Nanci Timmins is the Chief Fire and Life Safety Officer at the Department of Health Care Access and Information-OSHPD, State of California.

Nanci has over 25 years in the fire industry. Prior to her position as a Chief Fire and Life Safety Officer and a Fire and Life Safety Officer at OSHPD, she was a Fire Marshal Inspector for the State of Michigan and a firefighter.

Nanci has certifications in NFPA and holds degrees in Psychology and Fire Science.

OSHPD 355 S. Grand, Suite 1900 Los Angeles, CA 90071

T: +1 213.687.4959 E: nanci.timmins@hcai.ca.gov



Rich Walke, Technical Director

Rich Walke is the Technical Director of Creative Technology Inc., providing consulting and training services for the fire protection and code enforcement communities, including The McHugh Company and the Firestop Contractors International Association.

Previously, Rich had been employed by UL for 43 years, focusing on fireresistance-rated construction and the protection of breaches in those assemblies. During that time, Rich was involved in testing, standards development, code development, and providing technical assistance and training to architects, engineers, contractors and code officials.

Creative Technology, Inc. 44 Carlisle Road Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

T: +1 847.274.0283 E: richwalke61@gmail.com

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ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Brian Chenevey 3M St. Paul, MN bchenevey@mmm.com

Chad Landry 3M Livingston, TX clandry@robustsolutionsllc.com

Vincent Mannino 3M St. Paul, MN vwmannino@mmm.com

Samantha Peterson 3M St. Paul, MN slpeterson@mmm.com

Rachel Samdahl 3M St. Paul, MN rsamdaho@mmm.com

Annie Schaubmayer 3M St. Paul, MN atautzschaubmayer@mmm.com

Ernie Stumpf 3M St. Paul, MN eastumpf@mmm.com

Jason Wharton 3M St. Paul, MN jawharton@mmm.com

Molly Zimmerman 3M St. Paul, MN molly@emzimmsolutions.com

Tom Fichtner AAC Contracting Rochester, NY twf@aac-contracting.com

Javier Lucatero Accurate Firestop & Insulation Pleasanton, CA javier@accuratefirestop.com

Ernie Close Acoustic Ceiling & Partition Co., Inc. Ann Arbor, MI eclose@acpmich.com Dean Hammel Albion Engineering Company Moorestown, NJ dean@albioneng.com

Heath Harrison Alpha Insulation & Waterproofing McKinney, TX hharrison@alphaiwp.com

James Heath Alpha Insulation & Waterproofing McKinney, TX jheath@alphaiwp.com

Setphen Kohara Alternate Resistance Specialists Arvada, CO stephen@arscolo.com

Cole Liddicoat Alternate Resistance Specialists Arvada, CO cole@arscolo.com

Alex Rothberg Alternate Resistance Specialists Arvada, CO alex@arscolo.com

Joe Vega American Empire Firestop, Inc. Ontario, CA joe@americanempirefirestopinc.com

James Adams American Firestop Solutions Sacramento, CA james@firestop.us

Steve Osorio American National Insulation dba Insulation Contractors Robbinsville, NJ steve.osorio@truteam.com

Scott Rankin American National Insulation dba Insulation Contractors Robbinsville, NJ scott.rankin@truteam.com

Dominick Zappala American National Insulation dba Insulation Contractors Robbinsville, NJ dominick.zappala@truteam.com Will Jannace American Permalight[®] Inc. Torrance, CA sales@americanpermalight.com

Ricardo Navarro American Permalight[®] Inc. Torrance, CA operations@americanpermalight. com

Ryan Poet ARC Firestop Solutions Baltimore, MD rpoet@arc-md.com

Joe Wilkinson ARC Firestop Solutions Baltimore, MD jwilkinson@arc-md.com

Joe Corke Aries Contracting, Inc. Ottawa, ON joe@ariescontracting.com

Justin Bishop Balco Wichita, KS justin.bishop@balcousa.com

Steve Cooper Balco Wichita, KS steve.cooper@balcousa.com

James Foy Balco Wichita, KS james.foy@balcousa.com

John Harder Balco Wichita, KA john.harder@balcousa.com

Antje Bergman Beam Fire and Life Safety Flower Mound, TX antje@beamfirelifesafety.com

Corey Beckett Beyond Thermal Calgary, AB corey@beyondgroup.ca

John Chiangi Brand Services Gales Ferry, CT johnjr@brand-svc.com



ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Alex Nelson Braun Intertec Bloomington, MN anelson@braunintertec.com

Chris Downey C.L. Downey Construction, Inc. Durham, NC cldfirestop@aol.com

Kyle Rutledge Cal Com Insulation, Inc. Oceanside, CA kyle@calcominsulation.com

Thomas Hibinski California Fire Stop, Inc. Carlsbad, CA tom@calfirestopinc.com

Adam Bauchle Carciofini Company Burnsville, MN adam.bauchle@carciofini.com

Brendan Vaughan Carciofini Company Burnsville, MN brendan.vaughan@carciofini.com

Eric Bergman Chaparral Insulation Waco, TX ebergman@chaparralinsulation.com

Pat Dunn Chaparral Insulation Co. Waco, TX pdunn@chaparralinsulation.com

Eric Graehler Clearstory Walnut Creek, CA egraehler@clearstory.build

Chris Tzortzis Clearstory Walnut Creek, CA christz@clearstory.com

Bob Donoghue Coast Building Products Corona, CA bob.donoghue@amnationalservices. com

Matthew Halupowski Consigli Buxton, ME mhalupowski@consigli.com



Derek Miller CORFIX Ottawa, ON derek@corfix.com

Dustin Seymour CORFIX Ottawa, ON dustin.seymour@corfix.com

Robert Belvin Construction Specialties Muncy, PA rbelvin@c-sgroup.com

Mervyn Pereira Construction Specialties Muncy, PA mpereira@c-sgroup.com

Eric Keeton Dalton Protection Inc. Medway, OH ekeeton@daltonprotection.com

Amanda Minton Dalton Protection Inc. Medway, OH aminton@daltonprotection.com

Joseph Patrick Dalton Protection Inc. Medway, OH jpatrick@daltonprotection.com

Andy Guerra Daw Construction Draper, UT aguerra@dawcg.com

Bernard Amtmann DeCosta Construction Specialties, Inc. Monkton, MD bj.amtmann@decostaconstruction. com

Annie DeCosta DeCosta Construction Specialties, Inc. Monkton, MD annie.amtmann@ decostaconstruction.com

Cody Greenwalt DKB Inc. Pasco, WA cgreenwalt@dkbinc.net Raymond Blankenship DPR Construction Orlando, FL raybl@dpr.com

Teddy Chaus DPR Construction Newport Beach, CA teddyc@dpr.com

Sai Chidura DPR Construction Newport Beach, CA saic@dpr.com

Caleb Cortimilia DPR Construction Heath, TX calebco@dpr.com

Richard Cowie DPR Construction Newport Beach, CA richardco@dpr.com

Avinash Damera DPR Construction Heath, TX avinashda@dpr.com

Stephen Gordon DPR Construction Orlando, FL stepheng@dpr.com

Adrian Radtke DPR Construction Newport Beach, CA adrianr@dpr.com

Julio Sanchez DPR Construction Orlando, FL julios@dpr.com

William Schafer DPR Construction Newport Beach, CA willsc@dpr.com

Stephen Tarantino DPR Construction Waltham, MA stephenta@dpr.com

Reni Kapxhiu Ecostar Insulation North York, ON reni@ecostarinsulation.ca

ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Mariglen Qorri Ecostar Insulation North York, ON it@ecostarinsulation.ca

Buddy Fishman EMI Las Vegas, NV bfishman@emilv.com

Christopher Hooks EMI Las Vegas, NV chrishooks@emilv.com

Andres Chiquete Farwest Insulation Contracting Tempe, AZ achiquete@farwestinsulation.com

Rob Kim Farwest Insulation Contracting Anaheim, CA rkim@farwestinsulation.com

Cody Repenning Farwest Insulation Contracting Tempe, AZ crepenning@farwestinsulation.com

Brenden Trueblood Farwest Insulation Contracting Tempe, AZ btrueblood@farwestinsulation.com

Craig Goldfield FGH Insulation Co. Houston, TX craig.goldfield@fghinsulation.com

Paul Grein FGH Insulation Co. Houston, TX paul.grein@fghinsulation.com

Erick Campos Fieldwire by Hilti Plano, TX ecampos@fieldwire.com

Adan Benitez Fire Blockers Mesquite TX adan@fireblockers.com

Jacob Bennett Fire Blockers Mesquite TX jacob.bennett@fireblockers.com Amon Hayes Fire Blockers Mesquite TX amon@fireblockers.com

Jay McGuire Fire Stop Technologies, Inc. St. Louis, MO jay@thornburgh-stl.com

Barbara Jones Firestop Carolinas, Inc. Mooresville, NC barbara@firestopcarolinas.com

Jason Vogel Firestop Southwest Laveen, AZ jasonv@firestopsouthwest.com

Stephen Henson Firestop Specialties Inc. Santa Clara, CA stephen@firestopsi.com

Chuck Sackett Firestop Technologies, Inc. Victor, NY charles@fstny.com

Frank Sackett Firestop Technologies, Inc. Victor, NY charles@fstny.com

Thomas Riley Firestoppers Belleville, IL triley@firestoppers.net

George Burton Firestopperzz, LLC Frederick, MD gburton@firestopperzz.com

Jerry Dugan, Jr. Firestopping Specialist Odessa, TX jerryjr@firestoppingspecialist.com

Brent Johnson FireWise Consultants Carmel, CA brent@firewiseconsultants.com

Chad Carr Florida Firestop Systems Winter Park, FL chadfirestop@outlook.com Joanna Blaney FM Approvals Norwood, MA joanna.blaney@fmapprovals.com

Scott MacGovern FM Approvals Norwood, MA scott.macgovern@fmapprovals.com

Joe Hauser FX Facility Group Cincinnati, OH jhauser@foxxconstruction.com

Bryant Bickmore GDA Contractors Grand Prairie, TX bbickmore@gdacontractors.com

John Black GDA Contractors Grand Prairie, TX jblack@gdacontractors.com

David Midura General Insulation Co. Inc. Medford, MA dmidura@generalinsulation.com

Dana Arsenault Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA dana@gpi-firestop.com

Matt Cole Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA mcole@gpi-firestop.com

Aideen Doneski Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA aideen@gpi-firestop.com

Aedan Gleeson Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA aedan@gpi-firestop.com

Gus Mancini Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA gus@gpi-firestop.com

Andrew "A.J." Wiest Gleeson Powers Inc. Southborough, MA awiest@gpi-firestop.com



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Carl Armstrong Greater Metroplex Interiors, Inc. Southlake, TX carlarmstrong@gmitexas.com

Isaac Helton Greater Metroplex Interiors, Inc. Southlake, TX isaachelton@gmitexas.com

Erik Campbell GROUND Engineering Consultants, Inc. Englewood, CO erik.campbell@groundeng.com

Sam Thompson GROUND Engineering Consultants, Inc. Englewood, CO sam.thompson@groundeng.com

Justin Ash Hilti Dallas, TX justin.ash@hilti.com

Greg Becker Hilti Dallas, TX greg.becker@hilti.com

Pooja Daniel Hilti Skokie, IL pooja.daniel@hilti.com

Sara Eidenshink Hilti Dallas, TX sara.eidenshink@hilti.com

Dave Gifford Hilti Dallas, TX dave.gifford@hilti.com

Ed Goldhammer Hilti Dallas, TX edward.goldhammer@hilti.com

Kurt Hansen Hilti Dallas, TX kurt.hansen@ hilti.com

ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Scott McClave Hilti Dallas, TX scott.mcclave@hilti.com

Travis Miller Hilti Dallas, TX travis.miller@hilti.com

Rheana Schano Hilti Denver, CO rheana.schano@hilti.com

Courtney Skene-Hamilton Hilti Dallas, TX courtney.skene-hamilton@hilti.com

Matt Winston Hilti Dallas, TX matthew.winston@hilti.com

Benjamin Stys Inpro Muskego, WI bstys@inprocorp.com

John Winslow Inpro Muskego, WI jwinslow@inprocorp.com

Gary Daughtry Insulpro Projects Portland, OR gary.daughtry@amnationalservices. com

Bernie Ferland Interior Building Contractors, LLC Cheshire, CT bferland@interiorbc.com

Julie Pollock JD Firestop Pros, Inc. Tracy, CA jpollock@jdfirestoppros.com Darren Pollock, Jr. JD Firestop Pros, Inc. Tracy, CA jpollockjd@jdfirestoppros.com

Darren Pollock, Sr. JD Firestop Pros, Inc. Tracy, CA dpollock@jdfirestoppros.com

Mike Caruso J-Kaulk Firestopping, Inc. Picayune, MS mcaruso@jkaulk.net

Daniel Penton J-Kaulk Firestopping, Inc. Picayune, MS dpenton@jkaulk.net

JR Smith J-Kaulk Firestopping, Inc. Picayune, MS jrsmith@jkaulk.net

Kelly Holovach K.C. Firestop Co. Inc. Shawnee, KS kellyh@everestkc.net

Brian Bayhan Kasco LLC Royal Oak, MI bbayhan@kascoinc.com

Geoff Hutchison Kasco LLC Royal Oak, MI geoffh@kascoinc.com

Alex Lorne Kasco LLC Royal Oak, MI alorne@ kascoinc.com

ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Riley Patterson Kasco LLC Royal Oak, MI rpatterson@kascoinc.com

Jesse Palczewski Kim Industries Oxford, CT jessep@kimindustries.com

Chris Sweda Kim Industries Oxford, CT dsweda@kimindustries.com

Jerry Synrod Kim Industries Oxford, CT jsynrod@kimindustries.com

Nicholas Hartz Lone Star Firestop, LLC Katy, TX nhartz@lsfirestop.com

Chris Harrell LSS Life Safety Services Louisville, KY charrell@lifesafetyservices.com

Chad Smith LSS Life Safety Services Louisville, KY csmith@lifesafetyservices.com

Shedrick Harrison Marek Brothers Systems, LLC Coppell, TX shedrickharrison@marekbros.com Matt Hlady Marek Brothers Systems, LLC Houston, TX matthewhlady@marekbros.com

Julio Saenz Marek Brothers Systems, LLC Coppell, TX juliosaenz@marekbros.com

Scott Wesley Marek Brothers Systems, LLC Houston, TX scottwesley@marekbros.com

Bret Young Marek Brothers Systems, LLC Coppell, TX victorcano@marekbros.com

Don Essig Massey's Glass Branford, CT dessigjr@masseysglass.com

Brent Urchike McCarthy Building Companies Gilbert, AZ burchike@mccarthy.com

Abby Lucas Medmix USA Norwell, MA abby.lucas@medmix.com

Geoffrey Herring MEG Glass Inc. Doylestown, PA geoffrey@megglassinc.com

Victoria Levesque MEG Glass Inc. Doylestown, PA victoria@megglassinc.com

Brand Slack Mid-Illinois Companies Peoria, IL bslack@mic123.com Dave Bratek MM Systems North Tonawanda, NY d.bratek@mmsystemscorp.com

Jacob Leberer MM Systems North Tonawanda, NY j.leberer@mmsystemscorp.com

Matt Mayer MM Systems North Tonawanda, NY m.mayer@mmsystemscorp.com

Tyler Ferguson National Firestopping Solutions Saco, ME tylerf@nefirestop.com

Aron Fleischmann National Guard Products, Inc. Memphis, TN aronf@ngp.com

Lizzy Higgins Newborn Brothers Hanover, MD lizzy@newborncaulkguns.com

Beau Courtway Performance Contracting, Inc. Tampa, FL beau.courtway@pcg.com

Jakob Datko Performance Contracting, Inc. Vancouver, WA jakob.datko@pcg.com

Jared Dozier Performance Contracting, Inc. Austin, TX jared.dozier@pcg.com

Spencer Edwardson Performance Contracting, Inc. Houston, TX spencer.edwardson@pcg.com

Ryan Kelly Performance Contracting, Inc. Houston, TX ryan.kelly@pcg.com

Alan Mcdurmon Performance Contracting, Inc. Fayetteville, GA alan.mcdurmon@pcg.com

Joshua Slayton Performance Contracting, Inc. Houston, TX joshua.slayton@pcg.com

Bob Strange Performance Contracting, Inc. Livermore, CA bob.strange@pcg.com

Jimmy Tran Performance Contracting, Inc. Seattle, WA jimmy.tran@pcg.com

John Verdegan Performance Contracting, Inc. Memphis, TN john.verdegan@pcg.com

Keller Wolfe Performance Contracting, Inc. Tampa, FL keller.wolfe@pcg.com

Eric Wong Performance Contracting, Inc. Anaheim, CA eric.wong@pcg.com

Merrick Malach Performance Firestop, Inc. Green Bay, WI merrick@performance-firestop.com

Brandon Nickolai Performance Firestop, Inc. Green Bay, WI brandon@performance-firestop.com

Ben Urcavich Performance Firestop, Inc. Green Bay, WI ben@performance-firestop.com

Bob Massey RAM Construction Services Livonia, MI bmassey@ramservices.com

Matt Wells RAM Construction Services Livonia, MI mwells@ramservices.com

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ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Rob Petroni RectorSeal Houston, TX rob.petroni@rectorseal.com

Mannan Mohammed Reliance Worldwide Corporation Mississauga, ON mannan.mohammed@rwc.com

Tom Hottenroth Retired Smithtown, NY tomhott60@yahoo.com

Sarah Southwick ROCKWOOL Garden Grove, CA sarah.southwick@rockwool.com

Travis Wasemiller ROCKWOOL Byhalia, MS travis.wasemiller@rockwool.com

Steven Foster Rocky Mountain Firestop Elizabeth, CO steve@rockymountainfirestop.com

Tillmon Richardson Rocky Mountain Firestop Elizabeth, CO pete@rockymountainfirestop.com

Jim Newell Rolling Plains Construction Henderson, CO jim.newell@rollingplains.com

Lisa Newell Rolling Plains Construction Henderson, CO lisa.newell@rollingplains.com

DJay Hutchins Sawtooth Caulking, Inc. McMinnville, OR dj@sawtoothcaulking.com

Justin Sutton Sawtooth Caulking, Inc. McMinnville, OR justin@sawtoothcaulking.com

Spencer Mello Sealant Specialists Inc. Albuquerque, NM sealantspecialists@comcast.net Wendy Cruz Southwest Specialty Contractors, LLC Las Vegas, NV wcruz@swscontractors.com

Mark Fujii Southwest Specialty Contractors, LLC Las Vegas, NV mfujii@swscontractors.com

Jeff Compton Specialty Construction Services, Inc. dba SCS Firestop Garner, NC jeff@scsfirestop.com

Dan DeSantis Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ ddesantis@stifirestop.com

Kate Emery Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ kemery@stifirestop.com

David Gomez Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ dgomez@stifirestop.com

Robert Gomez Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ rgomez@stifirestop.com

Brandon Kaplan Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ bkaplan@stifirestop.com

Alex Kaufman Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ akaufman@stifirestop.com

Ray Lo Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ rlo@stifirestop.com

Tim Mattox Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ tmattox@stifirestop.com

James Stahl, Jr. Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ jstahljr@stifirestop.com

ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Charbel Tagher Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ ctagher@stifirestop.com

Jeff Wexler Specified Technologies Inc. Somerville, NJ jwexler@stifirestop.com

Matt Molina Sterling Systems Goodyear, AZ matt.molina@sterling3d.com

Adam Carter Superior Industrial Insulation Company North Ridgeville, OH acarter@superior-insulation.com

Tom Dake Superior Industrial Insulation Company North Ridgeville, OH tdake2@superior-insulation.com

Josh Stachowiak Superior Industrial Insulation Company North Ridgeville, OH josh@superior-insulation.com

Mark Dietz Superl, Inc. Lino Lakes, MN mark@superl.net Dave Niemela Superl, Inc. Lino Lakes, MN dave@superl.net

Mike Pautsch Superl, Inc. Lino Lakes, MN mike@superl.net

Courtney Hanney Sweeney Drywall Finishes Boxborough, MA channey@sweeneydrywall.com

Bill Jannino Sweeney Drywall Finishes Boxborough, MA bjannino@sweeneydrywall.com

Carlos Velez Tanner Bolt & Nut Brooklyn, NY carlos.velez@tannerbolt.com

Tarris Arnold Taylor Interiors, LLC Charlotte, NC tarnold@taylorinteriorsllc.com

Valerie Madrid Terracon Consultants Midvale, UT vvmadrid@terracon.com

Kristy Meldrum Terracon Consultants Midvale, UT Angela Ogino Thermafiber/Owens Corning Wabash, IN angela.ogino@owenscorning.com

Saboura Rokhsari Thermafiber/Owens Corning Wabash, IN saboura.rokhsari@owenscorning. com

Todd Shear Thermafiber/Owens Corning Wabash, IN todd.shear@owenscorning.com

Tim Scarl Thermo Tec Euclid, OH tim.scarl@thermotecinsulation.com

J. Downey Thru-Wall Construction Allston, MA jdowney@thru-wall.com

Paul Nickerson Town of Grimsby Grimsby, ON pnickerson@grimsby.ca

Dwaine MacDonald Trinity Energy Group Stellarton, NS dwaine@trinityenergygroup.ca

Steve Turnbull Trinity Energy Group Stellarton, NS steve@trinityenergygroup.ca

Richard Baker Turner Brooks Madison Heights, MI rbaker@turnerbrooks.com

Sean Cooperrider U.S. CAD, An ARKANCE Company Irvine, CA sean.cooperrider@uscad.com

> Aaron Wagner U.S. CAD, An ARKANCE Company Irvine, CA aaron.wagner@uscad.com

WHO WILL BE THERE?

ALPHABETICAL BY COMPANY as of 11/05/24

Ruben Sandoval, Jr. UL Solutions Northbrook, IL ruben.sandovaljr@ul.com

Mark St. Onge UL Solutions Northbrook, IL mark.st.onge@ul.com

Mike Ojile Vesta Firestopping Blaine, MN mikeo@vestafirestopping.com

Zach Ojile Vesta Firestopping Blaine, MN zacho@vestafirestopping.com

Roy Peterson Vesta Firestopping Blaine, MN rpeterson@vestafirestopping.com

Daniel Budd Wall Systems Contractors Naples, FL dbudd@wallsystemsflorida.com

Russell Budd Wall Systems Contractors Naples, FL rbudd@wallsystemsflorida.com

Gaston Cabral Wal-Mark Firestop Tampa, FL gcabral@wm.nceusa.com

Aaron Miller, CFPS Wal-Mark Firestop Tampa, FL amiller@wm.nceusa.com

Andrew Denerson White Cap Norcross, GA andrew.denerson@whitecap.com

Brian Fabrizio White Cap Norcross, GA brian.fabrizio@whitecap.com

Blake Warren White Cap Norcross, GA blake.warren@whitecap.com



Dean Halverson X-Cell Insulation Wantagh, NY deanxcell@gmail.com





