

THE FIRESTOP

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NFCA/FCIA PASFIPRO '25 IN MONTREAL WAS A BIG SUCCESS

Over 180 people, great speakers, solutions found for industry issues, and much more. NFCA partnered again with the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) to bring education with slides in English and French to Canada.

Both the NFCA and FCIA Canada Committees worked with staff to build a great program. Included in the audience were code/fire officials, architects and many other key influences in Quebec.



FCIA HEADS TO ORLANDO FOR FIC '25

In a galaxy not so far away, the Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show sparks the ultimate rebellion against fire and smoke spread.

This is no mere gathering—it's a hyperdrive-powered mission to master cutting-edge techniques, wield innovative technologies, forge alliances with industry leaders, and safeguard lives and structures. Join us at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando, FL October 13-16, 2025 for the 2025 Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show.



FIC '25 has something for everyone! From hands-on workshops to a trade show showcasing the newest firestop innovations, This is your opportunity to team up with fellow fire protection pros and strengthen the (Fire) Resistance. Find

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of the rebellion against fire and smoke spread! Visit www.fcia.org to find out who will be there, check out the agenda, and register.

UL SOLUTIONS' NEW TECHNICAL EVALUATION DEVELOPER COMPANY PROGRAM

Firestop material manufacturers collaborated with UL Solutions to build an auditable program for controlling their Engineering Judgement (EJ) development process. UL Solutions' New Technical Evaluation Developer Program requires a firestop manufacturer build a management system for EJ development, have personnel that have passed UL Solution's Firestop Technical Evaluation Developer Exam, get audited initially and annually, with selected systems being subject to fire tests - by UL Solutions. Check out FCIA's recent webinar on the program in the members only section of FCIA.org or contact Mark.St.Onge@UL.com for more info.



FCIA PARTNERS

FCIA @ NASFM

FCIA met with the National Association of State Fire Marshals leadership and code committee recently, to hear about key issues affecting their areas.

Topics included fire-resistance, carbon monoxide exposure for building occupants, lithium-ion battery fires and much more.

Our exhibit was well attended, with all visitors stating, “we get FCIA’s Life Safety Digest, read it and pass it on to staff”. Your association is making a difference.

WHERE TO NEXT?

- OFSEC – October 14-16, 2025 | Oman

Keep an eye out for Life Safety Digest in the publication bin at this international fire and safety conference as we continue expanding our global reach.

- ICC Annual Conference & Expo – October 19-20, 2025 | Long Beach, CA

With both a booth and pub bin, FCIA will be engaging directly with code officials and specifiers to promote better understanding and enforcement of fire-resistance-rated systems.

- ExpoFire AMRACI – October 27-29, 2025 | Mexico

We’re looking forward to returning to Latin America with a strong presence in both the booth and pub bin, supporting regional education and awareness in LATAM around firestop systems.

FCIA @ ASTM

Over the next 30 days, FCIA’s Bill McHugh, Standards Chair Jay McGuire travel to Atlanta, GA, USA to discuss several standards at ASTM.

NEW ASTM FIRESTOPPING LABELING STANDARD

New standard ASTM E3456, Standard Practice for On-Site Identification of Firestop Systems and Judgments, was published recently. Chaired by FCIA Standards Committee Member Jay McGuire, the standard had great collaboration from colleagues – manufacturers, inspection agencies, FCIA Standards Committee, FCIA Staff, and others.

The starting draft for ASTM E3456 was the FCIA RPP-L-2018.1 – FCIA Recommended Practice for the Identification of Fire Resistance Rated and Smoke Resistant Penetration and Joint Firestopping. RPP-L-2018 is available to FCIA Members free at the members only section, FCIA.org. Visit www.ASTM.org to purchase the ASTM E3456 For \$69USD. Our next step is to pursue a code proposal for the 2030 version of the International Building Code

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 FCIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We are proud to recognize this year’s winners of the FCIA Memorial Scholarship, awarded to outstanding students pursuing higher education with a commitment to excellence and leadership. This Scholarship is awarded to students enrolled in Fire Protection or Construction Management. Thanks to the success of the Golf Tournament at FIC ’24 in Palm Springs—and the incredible generosity of our sponsors—FCIA was able to award a total of \$10,000 in scholarships this year. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and supporters who make this meaningful investment in the next generation possible.



CHANGES TO THE FIRESTOP INSPECTION STANDARDS

E2174 Standard Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Firestop Systems & E2393 Standard Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers also known as the Firestop Inspection Standards. There are several changes that have been submitted on this standard, including:

- Removing ASTM E699, as the standard has been removed.
- Removing 2 years experience requirement, and instead referring to E3038.
- Referring only to ASTM E3038 in section 6, inspector qualifications
- Adding a “deficiency log” to the standard.
- Combine into one standard
- Better define Section 10’s requirements.

Discussion will take place about combining the standards – E2174 and E2393 – into one standard. In specifications, MasterFormat 07-84-00 Firestopping section includes penetrations, joints and void, and also perimeter fire containment. Plus, much are the two standards have multiple sections that are duplicated. We’ll also discuss this and many other issues important to the industry.

Note that the ASTM E2174/E2393 are the result of contractors asking at FCIA’s 1999 Conference, “Why is there inspection for fireproofing and not firestopping?” to ICC’s Mike Pfeiffer. Mike replied, “Do you have a standard and did you submit a proposal to mandate it the IBC?”. FCIA’s answer was to form the Standards Committee, pay a consultant to draft the 1st version, and work with manufacturers at ASTM to build the standard. FCIA’s Code Consultant at the time Bill Koffel, plus FCIA staff, were successful adding to the 2012 IBC. In 2008, FCIA’s Board of Directors wrote the International Firestop Council about several industry issues, which resulted in the standards being developed at ASTM as shown below.

E2785 – Standard Test Method for Exposure of Firestop Materials to Severe Environmental Conditions – This standard deals with exposure of firestop materials to various environmental elements. The standard exposes samples of material to elevated temperature, high humidity, carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide with moisture present, water immersion, temperature cycling, wet-freeze-dry cycling and weathering. Since this is a small sample tested, there is no fire test after exposure. Discussion at this meeting usually requests exposure to chemicals that the products are most likely to encounter during the building life cycle. More on this in a future eNews.

E2923 - Standard Practice for Longevity Assessment of Firestop Materials Using Differential Scanning Calorimetry – This standard “evaluates the extent of chemical reactions that will occur within the firestop material under specified conditions of temperature and humidity”, excluding environmental exposure or building operation that might be experienced by an individual firestop system. This ‘Aging’ standard usually has discussion about validating the laboratory aging and relating it to real world conditions.

E3037 - Standard Test Method for Measuring Relative Movement Capabilities of Through-Penetration Firestop Systems – According to section 5.1, the standard “is intended to standardize the cyclic movement of a through-penetration firestop system prior to a fire resistance test”. Since penetration firestop systems are “rigidly supported” on both sides of the wall assembly, movement should be limited to water hammer, expansion and contraction due to heat/cold, and movement of the horizontal assembly holding the rigid support system for the penetrating items.

E3038 – Standard Practice for Assessing and Qualifying Candidates as Inspectors of Firestop Systems and Fire-Resistive Joint Systems, has been included into ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 as an option to ASTM E699 and the two years of experience. There is always ongoing discussion about this standard.



ADVANCING STANDARDS
TRANSFORMING MARKETS

CHANGES TO THE FIRESTOP INSPECTION STANDARDS CONT...

E3456 Standard Practice for On-Site Identification of Firestop Systems and Judgments, the new Labeling Standard was published in July. This standard will have discussion about negatives were removed to help the standard get published – that will need balloting. Watch for more on this in the next FCIA eNews.

The summary of this portion of FCIA's Enews is that if FCIA Members have issues, bring them up to the FCIA Standards Committee. If moved, join the committee to make a difference in fire and life safety – and your industry.

- **NFPA Documents** – For NFPA users need to visit each individual standard at the [NFPA list of codes and standards page](#). For **NFPA 101**, visit [this link](#), scroll down, to see the free access.
- **ASTM Standards** – ASTM has a specific page called the [ASTM Reading Room](#), where standards are found and viewed.

In all cases, it is important to be sure you are viewing the standard referenced in the code, and that the code has not been modified during adoption in the jurisdiction the building is located.

NFPA, ICC, ASTM FREE VIEWING ONLINE

Did you know that the codes and standards are developed by not-for-profit organizations and not government? Government does not get involved until the codes are adopted in whole, or with modifications, by a municipality. For several years, the NFPA 1, 101, 5000 and other standards have been available online for free – but without cut and paste capability, nor a PDF on a computer or tablet.

- **International Building Code (IBC)** – The documents can be found at [ICC's code site](#), where viewing is by the document year published. For the 2024 version, check out [this link](#). The code version and year in effect at time of permit is what the building is regulated under. Alterations might change the effective code to a current date, depending on the level of alteration.
- **International Fire Code (IFC)** – The [International Fire Code](#), once adopted by a municipality, is retroactive. Passive structural fire-resistance rated building elements and assemblies are now listed in section 708 of the 2024 IFC.

FCIA BOARD MEETS

The FCIA Board of Directors recently convened in Newport, RI to review ongoing initiatives and set priorities for the months ahead. Key topics included enhancing member engagement, advancing industry education, and preparing for upcoming FCIA programs and events. The Board remains dedicated to ensuring FCIA continues to serve as the leading voice for the firestop and passive fire protection industry worldwide.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

BIG NEWS – 2025 ADCD Circular – At PasFiPro 2025 in Dubai this February, Capt. Engr. Mohamed Alhanaee and Abu Dhabi Civil Defence (ADCD) announced that a new requirement would be communicated in June, with effective date January, 2026. In it, the FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors or UL Solutions' Qualified Firestop Contractor Program will be required. FCIA's Abhishek Chhabra had been working with ADCD for quite some time on this important program. Requirements were announced for firestop inspection and also manufacturers EJ's, with the new Technical Evaluation Developer Program (TEDp) also becoming a requirement.

On June 24, 2025, the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority (ADCDA) announced new Certification Requirements for Contractors, Suppliers issuing Engineering Judgments and Houses of Expertise working with firestopping. The circular is effective June 24, 2025 with a 6-month grace period, until January 24, 2026.

Contractors recognized by FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors or UL Solutions' Qualified Firestop Contractor Program are required to install firestopping in Abu Dhabi, an Emirate of the United Arab Emirates.

Houses of Expertise need at least two engineers who have completed the International Firestop Council's Firestop Inspector Program.

Finally, **all suppliers issuing Engineering Judgements (EJs)** need to be qualified under the UL Technical Evaluation Developer Program (TEDp). The TEDp is a management system based, company program that is focused on organization controls on EJ developments.

FCIA's Abhishek Chhabra hosted a webinar on the circular. Slides can be viewed at , and a recording is available to members in the FCIA Members Only Section. The Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Circular can be viewed at FCIA's website also.

Congrats to Capt. Engr. Mohamed Alhanaee and Abu Dhabi Civil Defence leadership for seeing the value of implementing the Firestopping DIIM – proper Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintaining Protection in buildings in the Emirate.

24/06/2025

هيئة أبوظبي للدفاع المدني
ABU DHABI CIVIL DEFENCE
AUTHORITY



**Subject: Mandatory
Certification Requirements for
Contractors, Suppliers, and
Houses of Expertise in
Firestop and Through
Penetration Systems**

Dear Contractors, Suppliers, and
Houses of Expertise,

الموضوع: متطلبات الشهادات الإلزامية
للمقاولين والموردين وبيوت الخبرة العاملين
في المواد المبطنة والماتعة لانتشار الحريق

السادة المقاولين والموردين وبيوت الخبرة
المحترمين



MORE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

FCIA's Director of International Initiatives, Abhishek Chhabra, has been making tracks lately. From the Association of Brazilian Passive Fire Protection (ABPP) Conference in Brazil, Fire Protection Australia (FPA) Conference in Australia where meetings with FPA and Fire Protection Association of New Zealand (FPANZ) took place, Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) Conference in London, upcoming Fire & Security Association of India (FSAI) Expo, Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), the Big 5 Show in Dubai, with Memorandums of Understanding shared with FPA, FSIA, and many others. He's been invited to speak at places like Intersec Saudi Arabia, many more important venues. Through active participation in many industry groups, FCIA Members will be recognized as preferred providers of firestop systems and effective compartmentation services and products. Abhi is travelling much to result in a worldwide movement of fire-resistance in buildings, including firestopping by FCIA Members.



FCIA FIRESTOP EDUCATION PROGRAM (FEP)

The FCIA's FEP is the most thorough education on firestopping available anywhere. From DIIM to Firestop Material Properties, Estimating and Project Management, there is a ton of info in the programs.

Increase the depth of knowledge in company employees to protect against liability, be able to discuss industry issues intelligently with customers, and as a result, gain more business. Watch for more education modules to be released soon.



MEET OUR NEW TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, DR. GABBY PECK, PHD

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Gabby Peck (PhD) has joined FCIA as our new Technical Director. Gabby brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we're excited to welcome her to the team.

As she gets up to speed in her new role, she'll be supported by Bill McHugh, Rich Walke, and Abhishek Chhabra, ensuring a smooth transition and strong collaboration across our technical initiatives.

Please join us in giving Gabby a warm welcome to FCIA! You can reach her at gabby@fcia.org

Together with Dr. Peck, the FCIA team looks forward to continuing to serve our members and advance the firestop industry.



GET OUT THERE: HOW TO DRIVE SUCCESS THROUGH CONNECTIONS (WITHOUT MAKING IT AWKWARD)

By Trisha Miltimore - Keynote Speaker & Worklife Wellness Advocate

I remember showing up at a networking event 20 years ago, palms sweaty and smile tight. I was determined to “make connections” but secretly just hoping the appetizer table would save me from awkward small talk.

I didn’t grow up in boardrooms or on the golf course. I grew up in a family of entrepreneurs. My parents ran their own business, and I learned early what it looked like to build something from the ground up. It was work. Real work. Inventory, invoices, late nights, early mornings. My parents were brave and scrappy, and I inherited that same energy. But what I didn’t inherit was a playbook for how to walk into a room and “network.” At the time, I thought networking was mostly about trying to sound smart or handing out business cards like candy. It felt inauthentic. And, frankly, hard. No fun!

Since then, via building my own training company, I’ve learned a lot. Namely, that connection drives opportunity. In your work, in your leadership, in your growth—being able to connect with others in real, human ways is what moves the needle.

But here’s the kicker: networking doesn’t have to be awkward, overly formal, or salesy. Especially not in industries like this, where most of us value trust, clarity, and no-BS conversations.

Whether you own your company or work for someone else, these three simple tools can help you connect with confidence and ease.

Ask better questions

The fastest way to stop dreading networking is to take the spotlight off yourself. People often stress about what to say, how to sound impressive, or whether they’ll come across the right way.

But what really works? Asking a solid question.

Go beyond the typical “What do you do?” and try something more engaging. For example:
What kind of projects are you working on right now?
What’s your favourite part of your job?
What’s something you wish more people understood about your industry?

These questions make people stop and think. They feel fresh. And best of all, they invite people to talk about something they care about. You’re not “networking,” you’re just having a conversation with purpose.

You don’t have to be the most extroverted person in the room. You just have to be curious.

Collect stories

This is one of my favourite mindset shifts. Instead of thinking, “What should I say?” think, “What can I learn?”

When I walk into a room, I’m in story-collection mode—mining real stories from real people. Experiences, lessons, quirky project wins, memorable moments on job sites. These are the things that help us connect, lead, and learn. Collecting stories does a few things. First, it gives you great content for your own toolbox. Second, it makes you a better listener. And third, it shows people you’re interested in them, not just what they can do for you.

This mindset works whether you’re at a big industry conference or chatting with a fellow contractor at the gas station.

Share your Triple W

When someone asks “What do you do?” most people either freeze, ramble, or default to a vague, forgettable answer.

That’s where the Triple W Formula comes in. It’s a simple framework to help you feel more confident and clear when introducing yourself or talking about your work.

Who you are. What you do. Why it matters.

Here’s an example.

I’m Trisha. I’m a keynote speaker and leadership consultant. I help teams and leaders communicate with more clarity, confidence, and less burnout—because when people feel heard, they lead better.

That’s it. No buzzwords, no scripts. Just clarity.

Your Triple W can be casual.

GET OUT THERE: HOW TO DRIVE SUCCESS THROUGH CONNECTIONS (WITHOUT MAKING IT AWKWARD) CONTINUED...

It can change depending on who you're talking to. But if you prep it ahead of time, you'll never feel stuck again when someone turns to you and says, "So, what do you do?"

And that's the whole point—intentional communication creates confidence.

Final thoughts

You don't need a stack of business cards or a 10-minute elevator pitch to be good at networking. You just need a mindset that focuses on connecting, not performing.

Ask real questions. Collect great stories. Share your Triple W.

When you do that consistently, you'll find the connections that matter—and you'll likely help someone else feel more comfortable in the process.

And here's the real win: every time you show up and speak up, you're creating momentum. For your business. For your leadership. For your growth.

Connections = Opportunity



About the Author

Trisha Miltimore is a keynote speaker, Certified Management Consultant, and WorkLife Wellness Activator. She works with leaders and business owners across Canada to boost team communication, engagement, and leadership clarity. Through high-impact **keynotes, interactive workshops, and coaching for individuals and teams**, Trisha helps organizations create cultures where people—and performance—can thrive.

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🎤 Speaker Reel: <https://youtu.be/9j37AGXfx7Y?si=DQ29r5BEU89g-Kq2>

Do you know a company that should be an FCIA Member?

Send them our way, and we'll follow up (and get you in the running for the Industry Development Award!)

Email lissettek@cmservices.com for more info.



PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST

Life Safety Digest, the official publication of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), is the industry's go-to resource for firestopping, effective compartmentation, and fire-resistance information. Distributed to a targeted audience of contractors, code officials, architects, engineers, inspectors, facility managers, and other key stakeholders, this quarterly magazine puts your brand in front of the people driving specifications, purchases, and approvals in the built environment.

Why advertise?

- ◆ Niche, qualified audience – Our readers are actively engaged in life safety and fire-resistance-rated construction.
- ◆ Trusted industry voice – FCIA is recognized globally as a leader in firestop education, code development, and industry expertise.
- ◆ Multi-platform exposure – Your ad appears in both print and digital editions, with bonus exposure at major industry events.
- ◆ Content-rich environment – Your brand is placed alongside technical features, case studies, code updates, and expert commentary.

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Contact Lissette at Lissettek@cmservices.com or visit www.fcia.org for rates, deadlines, and specs.

NEW MEMBER



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 and spread the word for better fire and life safety.

We're always excited to welcome new members who share this commitment to the Passive Fire Protection industry.

Thank you for joining the mission and strengthening our community. Now, let's give a warm welcome to FCIA's newest members!

NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

- Partner Prime Solutions
- Ace Insulation Services, Inc
- BL Harbert International

NEW CONTRACTOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

- Al Manaf Fire Protection LLC
- Rynco Engineering Ltd
- Humanos De Agua, S.A. (Waterman)
- Al Gazal Business Solutions W.L.L

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Corfix
- TriTech Industries

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