

Wow, what a year for FCIA's efforts.

The FCIA Board of Directors met four (4) times this year and had several teleconferences to keep up with the many things highlighted in this issue. It's through FCIA's Board, Committee Chairs, and Committee volunteers that FCIA gets the direction and energy to advocate for the firestop and effective compartmentation industry and FCIA membership through our presence at industry events, educational sessions, technical meetings, and more.

From the USA to Canada, the Middle East, UK, Ireland, and Europe, FCIA leadership and representatives could be found all over this year promoting fire- and life-safety through the proper 'DIIM' of Firestopping – 'D'esign (Listings, Specs, Standards & Codes), 'I'nstallation (FCIA Member, FM 4991 Approved, UL/ULC Qualified Contractors), 'I'nspection (Inspection Agencies who pass the FM or UL/ULC Firestop Exam or the IFC Exam), and 'M'aintenance and 'M'anagement (to Fire Codes).

Travel took FCIA far and wide – eight (8) countries and countless states, provinces, and emirates – and saw hundreds of people introduced to FCIA and the 'DIIM' of Firestopping. All of this for improved fire- and life-safety in buildings worldwide.

FCIA leadership and staff appreciate all FCIA members worldwide who volunteered their time and energy this year to be the face of FCIA at these events worldwide.

What's up for 2020? Stay tuned. FCIA's Board of Directors meets the week of January 6. It's at this meeting that the direction for 2020 is outlined. What's certain is that the entire group is looking forward to a great year.

Thanks to FCIA Members, we can do what we do all year long to promote firestopping and barrier management services. Utilizing the proper 'DIIM' of Firestopping and working alongside FCIA Members, we can realize better fire- and life-safety in buildings.

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FCIA - New Look, Same Expertise

This November, at the 20th Anniversary FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show - FIC '19, FCIA rolled out a fresh, new logo and announced the development of a new website for the international association. The new logo and website bring a clean, streamlined design to the trusted FCIA brand.

FCIA members in good standing (excluding Friends of FCIA members) can use the FCIA logo on FCIA member company stationery, websites, business cards, and other marketing materials. Members can find the new FCIA logo and Logo Policy in the Members Only section of FCIA.org.

Look for the release of the new FCIA.org in 2020.

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FIC '19 - A Celebration to Remember

Thanks to the FCIA Program Committee, this year's FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show – FIC '19 – was a blockbuster event that many will remember for years to come.

The event, held at the Trump National Doral in Miami, FL, was a four-day long celebration of not just FCIA's 20th Anniversary, but also a tribute to the countless members and industry allies who have helped shape the industry and FCIA since its inception in 1999. Some of the groups recognized include the FCIA Steering Committee, FCIA Charter Members, First Meeting Attendees, the first Manufacturer Members, Past Presidents, Past Board Members, Industry Changemakers, and more.

The event featured the FM & UL/ULC Firestop Education and Exams, with a strong representation from Specialty Firestop Contracting companies testing. It shows that Specialty Firestop Contractors and the market find the value in third-party accreditation programs.

The agenda for the event highlighted a variety of technical sessions on every aspect of the industry, from legal exposure to health care facilities, structural fire-protection variances to fall protection, mass timber substrates to trends in firestopping specifications, and so much more. Attendees were heard commenting on the strength of the agenda, a true testament to the hard work of the Program Committee to provide fresh, relevant educational content.

The week also showcased the Firestop Industry Trade Show, the only trade show in North America dedicated to the firestop and effective compartmentation industry. Attendees were able to walk the exhibition floor during breaks in the agenda and meet with exhibitors featuring the newest products, technologies, and offerings for the firestop industry.

Golfer enthusiasts and rookies alike participated in the FCIA Memorial Golf Tournament, which supports the FCIA President's Memorial Scholarship for Fire Protection Engineering students. The event hosted the highest participation ever – 120 golfers – and raised over \$7,000 in scholarship monies. With the introduction of new contest holes such as the Marshmallow Drive and the Bogey

Buster Package, along with the standard Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin, participants enjoyed the Florida sun and raised money for the future of the industry.

The celebration continued with the FCIA 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Platinum Manufacturer members. The evening featured a plethora of surprises for all who attended. HILTI and STI, the original Platinum Manufacturer members, were astonished when FCIA leadership announced their sponsorship of comedian Greg Hahnasthesecret entertainment after the Awards presentation.

And, in showstopping fanfare, the evening wrapped up with a private 18-minute fireworks show that rivaled most Independence Day displays. The night was a spectacular recognition of the milestone event.

Thanks to the FCIA Program Committee for FCIA FIC '19. It's definitely one to remember.



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FCIA Code Committee Actions

FCIA Succeeds adding ASTM Inspection Standards to IBC

At both the ICC Committee Action Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote in 2019, FCIA's Code Committee, Executive Director, and Code Consultant worked to add Special Inspection to these critical occupancies where people sleep - **R Occupancies greater than 250**. This means a safer building and is why FCIA promoted this at ICC. FCIA's Code and Inspection Committees are working on more ways to improve inspections. Watch for more in 2020.

Fire-Resistance Inventory in the IFC

In the ICC Code Development Process for the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC), FCIA succeeded adding one key word – Inventory – to IFC's Chapter 7. Health Care Facility Directors understand inventory. They inventory power taps, equipment, and many items in the health care physical environment. A Fire-Resistance Inventory makes sense for them, and also for all other occupancies.

The IFC's Chapter 7 covers all types of buildings, wherever fire-resistance is used. It's not just about hospitals and health care. The code requires that the building owner have a fire-resistance inventory ready for inspection by the fire marshal. It's part of the package required for when the fire marshal inspects the building.

In all three sections, Chapter 9, Fire Protection Systems, Chapter ... Alarms, Chapter 7 Fire and Smoke Protection Features, inspection, maintenance and records are required. The building owners and facility directors have always had requirements for records in Chapter 7 of the IFC. The new word in the code, Inventory, is something they understand well that can help with compliance with

requirements.

Here's a possible conversation:

Fire Marshal: Sprinkler, fire pump, etc., testing?

Building Owner/Facility Director: Yes.

Fire Marshal: Alarm testing?

Building Owner/Facility Director: Yes

Fire Marshal: Fire-Resistance Inventory & Annual Visual Inspection?

Building Owner: Inventory in place and records of inspection ready.

The FCIA Member Firestop Contractor can help the building owner and manager with maintaining the fire-resistance in buildings they own. It's a responsibility they have and a potential risk to their tenant customers, occupants, and visitors. Building Owners and Managers, Facility Directors, check out FCIA's Barrier Management Services Section, FCIA.org. for companies that can help.

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New 2021 IBC Code Coming

In the 2021 International Building Code, one proposal the sprinkler industry passed was to allow plastic sprinkler pipe to penetrate a wall in townhomes. The wall was downgraded from a Fire Wall, to a lesser assembly. The issue is that the test standard referenced was ASTM E 119, *Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials*, or UL 263, *Standard for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials*. The correct

test standard is ASTM E 814, *Standard Test Methods for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestop Systems*, or UL 1479, *Standard for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestops*. While both are listed in the IBC, there are differences in the test standards. Designers, specifiers, please note the right test standard in specifications. The new code likely publishes in June 2020.

FCIA Inspection Committee Meets

FCIA has been integral to getting Special Inspection for Firestop added into the IBC.

Recognizing a need for Special Inspection for Firestop, FCIA hired a consultant to write the first Firestop

Inspection Standard drafts, then worked with firestop manufacturers at ASTM to gain consensus on Standard(s) – ASTM E 2174 and ASTM E 2393. Then, FCIA was the code proponent to put ASTM E 2174 and ASTM E 2393 into the International Building Code.

FCIA.org Barrier Management Services Section

FCIA's Barrier Management Services Section is getting visited. The number one place visitors go after the home page is the FCIA Member List. After that, the Firestop Contractors, Manufacturers, Associates, and Barrier Management Services get visited the most.

Focused at existing buildings, this section provides building owners and managers a place to find those that specialize in fire-resistance and smoke-resistant assembly maintenance and management. From firestop to walls, floors and fire-dampers, fire doors, it's all here.

All FCIA Member Firestop Contractors are listed on the Barrier Management Services page in the Firestop Contractor Section. The reason: it's additional exposure and is a second place to get found on the Member List. If your firm wants complete exposure as a Barrier Services Contractor, contact Cathy@FCIA.org to upgrade your listing.

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FCIA Standards Committee Actions

FCIA's Recommended Practice, Labeling/ Identification Systems

FCIA's Standards Committee's document, an attempt to standardize labelling procedures in the firestop industry, has been submitted to ASTM as a basis of a new ASTM Standard to be developed on the subject. FCIA's 2019 Standards Committee Co-Chair, Jay McGuire (Fire Stop Technologies, Inc.), has been appointed as the Task Group Chair on the new work item at ASTM. The idea is that this will build on FCIA's disapproved Code Proposal at ICC's 2021 Building Code Development Process. The vote was not overly negative and we had encouraging comments from building owners at the ICC Committee Action Hearings.

Watch for more on this from FCIA and in the next issue of [Life Safety Digest](#).

FCIA & Archaic Assemblies

Currently, Engineering Judgements (EJ's) are required whenever an Archaic Assembly is encountered because there is no listing that encompasses the specific fire-resistance-rated assembly. The question asked was, 'Why?'

During a conversation on this topic, FCIA President Jay McGuire and Executive Director Bill McHugh brainstormed key points about how to reduce the number of EJ's using 'Archaic Assemblies' as a possibility. FCIA's Standards Chairs and Board of Directors met with the firestop product manufacturers on the topic. We had a good discussion and made some progress, but more research is required on their part for something to take place.

Watch for more and check out an article on Archaic Assemblies and firestopping in the next issue of [Life Safety Digest](#).

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FCIA's Marketing Committee Successes

FCIA Canada Committee Action

This group has been quite active this year.

At the National Building Code of Canada, FCIA's Code Proposal to add mandatory firestopping installation by FM 4991 or ULC Qualified Firestop Contractors was disapproved.

FCIA also proposed at the NBCC firestop inspection to ASTM E 2174, *Standard for the On-Site Inspection of Installed Firestops* and ASTM E 2393, *Standard Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers*. The proposal was not disapproved, but instead it was referred to the NRC's NBCC Executive Committee (EC). The Standing Committee on Fire Protection Features referred to the EC that an Objective is needed before they can put a code requirement against it. That request is under development. We are not sure if this can get in the 2020 version of the NBC, but we are trying.

Further, we tried to put in language in the National Fire Code of Canada that requires the building owner to visually inspect the accessible fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistance assemblies annually – to assure continuity of protection. At this time, the proposal was disapproved.

FCIA will continue to pursue this, along with other,

FCIA Marketing Committee Does It Again

proposals with the NBC and NFC.

But that's not all.

In September, FCIA's Trade Show Booth was shipped to Saskatchewan for the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Association Meeting where Jim Smiley (ICON Insulation) and John Sharpe (ProFirestop) represented FCIA well.

Then, FCIA brought the FCIA Firestop & Effective Compartmentation 'DIIM' Symposium and the ULC Firestop Exam and Education to Montreal, QC. The event featured educational programs with slides in both English and French. One of the highlights was the National Research Council of Canada's Andre LaRoche on the National Building Code of Canada Development Process and a great audience of architects, specifiers, fire protection engineers, regulators, and code and fire officials.

Many thanks to FCIA Members Gilles Carrier (PGA Experts) and Eric DeAmorim (STI) for all their help promoting and translating the program. And special thanks to FCIA's Canada Committee for the continued involvement in furthering the firestop and effective compartmentation industry and Specialty Firestop Contractor in Canada.

How many shows does FCIA participate in yearly to get the word out about the best firestop contractors, inspection agencies, manufacturers and associate members in the industry? A lot. Visit www.FCIA.org for a listing of everywhere you can find FCIA around the world.

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FCIA in the UK, Ireland, Germany

FCIA's visit at UL's new Laboratory in Rosenheim, Germany was awesome. It was great to see such investment in fire-resistance with a lab capable of testing to UL 263, UL 1479, and UL 2079 at this lab. Their personnel were welcoming and technically knowledgeable in fire-resistance. It's amazing how we all speak the same language – fire-resistance.

FCIA's visit with UL UK and FM Approvals Dublin Offices were also productive with new relationships started to bring the worldwide standards – FM 4991, Standard of the Approval of Firestop Contractors and UL's Qualified Firestop Contractor Program – to other parts of the world. We look forward to the future together here and elsewhere.

FCIA Accreditation Committee Actions

FCIA at FM Approvals

FCIA's Accreditation Committee Chair, Ben Urcavich (Performance Firestop), and Vice Chair, Tyler Ferguson (Northeast Firestop), and Bill McHugh visited the FM Approvals FM 4991 Team in Norwood, MA.

While there, we discussed audits, FM promotion of the program through FM's Data Sheets, and the possibility of creating a new 'Understanding the Benefits' resource. It was great to meet with such a talented and committed group who has dedicated their work to reducing loss in buildings due to fire and smoke spread from unprotected breaches in fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assemblies.

Thanks to the FM Approvals personnel and upper management team for taking time to meet with us. Watch for more as the year unfolds.

FCIA at UL

FCIA's Accreditation Chair, Ben Urcavich, and Vice Chairs, Tyler Ferguson and Tracy Smith, met with Ruben Sandoval from UL.

As reported at FCIA's Firestop Industry Conference and Trade Show in November, there are close to 30 new UL Master Certificates of Compliance that have been issued to Specialty Firestop Contractors year-to-date. Each of these has been requested by a Specialty Firestop Contractor and provided to the building owner and manager as a way to prove compliance with the company's audited UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program processes on that particular jobsite. UL has also committed to promotion of the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program at various events through the year.

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FCIA Welcomes New Members

FCIA works hard to spread the word of the **'DIIM' of Firestopping** around the world, encouraging all interested Contractors, Consultant Firms, Associates, Manufacturers, Manufacturer Rep Firms 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

- Alternate Resistance Specialists, LLC - Arvada, CO

- Capmen LLC - Tampa, FL
- Gunnlaugson Spray-On Ltd. - Winnipeg, MB
- L.S. Decker - Houston, TX
- State-Line Products of South Florida - Pompano Beach, FL
- Truteam Commercial Services NYC - New York, NY

FCIA New Associate Members

- Global Fire Protection Group - Chadds Ford, PA
- Ramos Engineering and Associates - Brandon, FL
- Savannah River Nuclear Solutions - Aiken, SC

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.



*Happiest of Holidays
and Best Wishes
for a Prosperous New Year
from Our Families to Yours!*

The FCIA Office will be closed December 24-25 and December 31-January 1.
We will resume normal business hours January 2.
See you in the New Year!

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