



FCIA e-News

Volume 17, Issue 7



Come Conference With Us!



Less than three weeks remain until the [Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show](#) opens at the [Talking Stick Resort](#) this **November 3-6, 2015**.

Need to take the [FM or UL/ULC Firestop Exam](#)? **Come to FIC 2015!**

Want to hear from the **brightest minds in the industry** about the **newest technologies, code updates, processes** and more – and **earn CEUs** while you do it? **Come to FIC 2015!**

Looking to “**give back**” to your industry and **inspire the next generation** of Firestop professionals? **Come to FIC 2015!**

Itching to rub elbows with **fellow industry professionals** from around the world? **Come to FIC 2015!**

That's right, FIC 2015 is just around the corner, but you haven't missed the boat yet! There's still time to be a part of the largest Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show in the world!

[Register today!](#)

Register today!

*Note: Hotel availability is very limited for the night of Thursday, November 5. For assistance with your reservation, contact Lindsey at lindsey@FCIA.org.

The Code Development Process – Where Is It Now?

What happens in the code development process after the Public Comment Hearings are held? Once interested parties are able to weigh in on proposed code changes, who ultimately decides the fate of those code proposals? The answer is a **Governmental Voting Consensus**.

This second voting process is limited to Governmental **cdpACCESS™** Member Representatives and Honorary ICC Members, and is held online through the [cdpACCESS](#) “cloud”. During the two week period of **mid-October – November 3, 2015**, voting members can view video footage and vote through the remote system. All cast votes are posted for viewing, however only eligible members are able to vote.

The vote takes place from, with the **Final Action Summary** being posted **mid-November**.

FCIA's Code Consultant, **Bill Koffel**, will be monitoring these processes' closely and will **present a session** at the **Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show** on November 5 summarizing the **Final Actions of the Group A Code Development process**.

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FCIA at ICC Expo and the IAS Annual BoD Meeting

September brought interested "code techies" to Long Beach, CA for the [International Code Council's \(ICC\) Building Safety & Design Expo \(New\)](#), Annual Conference and Group A Public Comment Hearings. The [IAS, International Accreditation Services](#), Board of Directors Meetings were also held there during the same time.

The two-day Expo brings together exhibitors and professionals from the built-environment all interested in new and improved ways to keep buildings safe, as well as ways to meet and maintain compliance with accepted codes and standards. FCIA was present with a booth, in addition to Publication Bins for *Life Safety Digest* place around the Long Beach Convention Center.



September 27* - September 28, 2015
Long Beach Convention Center | Long Beach, CA
www.BSDExpo.org

Those interested in the **Public Comment Hearings** could participate in the process while at the Long Beach Convention Center September 30 – October 5. On the agenda were **proposed code changes** to the **Group A Codes** up for consideration during the Public Comment Hearings for the **2015 Code Development Cycle**. Approximately two weeks after the hearings end, the Online Governmental Consensus Vote will occur via [cdpACCESS](#).



The result: the 2018 I-Codes.

While in Long Beach, FCIA spent time with our many ICC Member Friends at the ICC Expo and Annual Business Meeting and IAS Board of Directors Meetings. It was great to hear from ICC's CEO Dominic Sims that the ICC is healthy financially and operationally as an organization. It seems, from the reports we received, that the ICC is laying the groundwork for a great and solid future.



At our FCIA Booth, we had a lot of traffic from visitors who offered positive comments and feedback. Among the topics that were talked about: *Life Safety Digest* and FCIA's code initiatives.

"Thanks for Life Safety Digest...it's the best educator for passive fire protection. The articles are educational and timely".

"Congrats to FCIA for the success you've had with the Building Codes, especially the Special Inspection requirement for Firestopping in Chapter 17 of the IBC."

But we can't take all the credit for everything at FCIA! Since our beginning, we have had great members, supporters, manufacturer partners, friends and staff – not to mention our tireless code consultant, Bill Koffel – all working hard to get things done.

IAS Presentations at ICC Expo Promote Accreditation

The [2015 International Code Council Annual Conference](#) offered a **comprehensive Education Program** to develop code knowledge and provide attendees with valuable solutions to the most critical challenges in the code profession.

One such program was the **Special Inspections for the Building Department** session. Presented by [IAS's President, Chuck Ramani](#), who teamed with **Building Code Officials**, the session covered the subject of **Special Inspection Agency, Building Department** and other **Accreditation Programs**. Attendance during this session was strong as Building Code Officials and Fire Marshals were quite interested in learning more about [IAS AC 291 Special Inspection Agency Accreditation](#).



ACCREDITED

The latest push for Accredited Organizations - similar to the [FM 4991 Approval](#) and [UL/ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs](#) - means further wide-spread requirements for and acceptance of 3rd-party Audited, Approved and Qualified Contractors and Special Inspection Agencies around the world employing qualified Special Inspectors and personnel.

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Cleveland Fire Department & IAFF's Sean DeCrane Speaks

At the ICC Expo, [Sean DeCrane](#), former IFC Executive Director, provided a four-hour program on **Firefighter Safety** and **research that changes firefighter tactics**. His program **focused on testing done at UL** and other labs on the **fire performance of construction elements** and the **effect on firefighting** – with a special focus on Firefighter safety.

Wood beams, steel construction, batteries, vinyl siding, insulation and more were all part of this amazing presentation. Mr. DeCrane also spoke of the **"hidden dangers"** to firefighters, such as lithium ion batteries. When lithium ion batteries overheat, they can generate a fire that is best battled with a foam extinguisher, while lithium metal battery fires must be fought with Class D extinguishers as water reacts with the lithium metal and makes the fire worse.

We applaud Sean and UL for asking tough questions about materials, firefighting strategies and safety and more. It is aimed at saving lives in fires – both occupants and firefighters – and there is no such thing as too much research where safety is concerned.

FCIA at CONSTRUCT 2015



Where can you find **Architects, Specifiers, Engineers, Contractors** and more all come together to discover the most cost-effective strategies for both educational opportunities and real-world product and service solutions for business success? The [Construction Specification Institute's \(CSI\) CONSTRUCT 2015](#), of course!



FCIA was present in **St. Louis, MO** for the widely attended [CSI Annual Conference](#) with our **FCIA Booth** and **Life Safety Digest Publication Bins**. Representing FCIA were [Don Murphy](#) (Marketing Chair) and [Jay McGuire](#) (Director), who

manned the FCIA booth and met and talked with many who were interested in learning more about the ['DIIM' of Firestopping](#). Attendance at the annual show was strong.

In fact, FCIA and CSI have a very long history of partnership for the industry. The **'DIIM' Strategy** - proper **Design, Installation, Inspection** and **Maintenance/Management** of Firestopping – was born as a result of CSI's comments to the FCIA. We started these discussions in 1994 at CSI Chapters years before FCIA existed.

Over the years, we've had a great dialog and partnership with [CSI](#). Looking to build upon this relationship with the Specification industry, in the past few years FCIA has worked to **develop a new partnership** with [Construction Specifications Canada \(CSC\)](#), a similar organization that **focuses on the construction community in Canada**.



We are thankful for our relationships with CSI and CSC, and we look forward to future discussions that will continue to result in great things for the industry and the built-environment.

Firestop Special Inspector Exams

Special Inspection for Firestopping has long been specified by the [07-84-00 Specs](#), and is required by [ASTM E 2174](#) and [2393 Standards](#), as well as [Chapter 17 of the International Building Code \(IBC\)](#).



Since the code requires firestop inspections, FCIA believes that **firestop inspections** need to be conducted by those **Special Inspection Agency Companies** and individual **Inspectors who know and fully understand firestopping**. It's critical that both the Inspection Company and Inspector have **knowledge and expertise** in the type and **complexity of work inspected**. For example, it's important that they know that firestop products become firestop systems after they are installed to the manufacturers' installation instructions and tested and listed system.

In fact, Chapter 17 of the IBC states that the Special Inspection Agency Company has a responsibility to

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"provide written documentation to the building official demonstrating the competence and relevant experience or training of the special inspectors..." (IBC 1704.2.1).

To date, **Special Inspection Agency Companies** have had the option of **sending their Special Inspectors** to write the **FM or UL/ULC Firestop Exam** to **demonstrate knowledge of Firestop Systems, systems selection** and the zero-tolerance needed to get firestop products installed to the manufacturer system specifications. Because these are knowledge based exams, they provided a neutral, third-party assessment of the qualifications of the Special Inspector.

Recently, the **International Firestop Council (IFC)** has developed their own **exam for Firestop Special Inspectors**. This online exam is available now, with a recommended list of various online study guides. This **new exam is available to Special Inspection Agencies and their Special Inspectors**, in addition to the already existing UL and FM Firestop Exams.



FCIA Members support Special Inspection for Firestop Systems. We were the proponent at the International Code Council to require inspection for firestops. Additionally, we chair the **ASTM Task Group** for **ASTM E 2174** and **E 2393**, the standards that are required by code.

In order for the I-Inspection part of the 'DIIM' strategy to work, we need the best, most accurate inspection reflecting the firestop system. **Working with an IAS AC 291 Accredited organization with competent inspectors is the key to ensuring this happens.**

recently the manual underwent an update to include more information about systems by firestop product. ***In this edition, there are 22 product groups discussed generically, including advantages, disadvantages, limitations of each and much more.***

As a service to the industry, FCIA identified several critical individuals who should be equipped with the knowledge contained in the MOP. This group includes:

- Architects with Design Firms
- Specifiers with Design Firms
- Engineers with Design Firms
- Governmental AHJ Building Officials
- Fire Marshals and Fire Officials
- Members of the Department of Municipal Affairs
- Members of the Department of Civil Defence
- Government Officials
- And Facility Management Engineers at Healthcare or Educational Facilities

For those who can prove eligibility through one of the aforementioned qualifications, FCIA provides a PDF of the MOP FREE of charge.

Need an FCIA Firestop MOP? Email lindsey@FCIA.org to see if you qualify for a free MOP*.

**FCIA Members pay \$295 for the document, but once purchased, FCIA Members are eligible to receive future updates electronically free of charge. Printed updates are available for a nominal fee. For more information, contact cathy@FCIA.org.*

Barrier Management Symposium Program Heading to the Smokies

FCIA Manual of Practice Gaining Circulation



One of **FCIA's core missions** is building knowledge and awareness of the importance of Life-Safety Firestop Systems and Effective Compartmentation. As a means to that end, the **FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice (MOP)** was born.

This living document, now in its 6th Edition, is the industry handbook of accepted firestop knowledge. Most



The highly lauded **Barrier Management Symposium**, produced by FCIA and partners **American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE)**, **The Joint Commission**

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(TJC) and [Underwriters Laboratories \(UL\)](#) have one final 2015 program scheduled for **November 17-18, 2015**.

The Symposium, being held at the [Wellmont Bristol Regional Medical Center](#) in **Bristol, TN**, will feature the BMS Faculty once again coming together to educate attendees on the various aspects of Fire- and Smoke-rated barriers. Through proper Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance – the 'DIIM' of Firestopping – installed Firestop and Effective Compartmentation Systems can perform as intended when called upon for fire and smoke protection and improved fire- and life-safety.

To learn more about the upcoming BMS program and to register, visit

<http://fcia.org/barriermanagementsymposium.htm>.

FCIA Educational Webinar Series



Just a reminder to attend this Friday's webinar, '[Contractor Qualification Programs: What Are They and Why Are They Important?](#)', at **10:00 am CDT**. *Attend this session to learn more about the third-party Contractor qualification programs, their respective requirements and why it is important.*

Also, stay tuned for more info on the **November webinar**, tentatively scheduled for **November 19, 2015 at 10:00am CDT**. Some program topics under consideration:

- Curtain wall assemblies and the installation techniques and challenges associated with them
- F, T, L, H and W Ratings – What do they mean and what are the test standards and code requirements for each
- NFPA 72 and 258 – What are they and how do they affect the Firestop industry?

Be sure to register for these highly informational monthly sessions to: Earn CEU's! Ask questions! Learn!

When: Friday, October 23
Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm
CDT

[Register here.](#)



Get The Voting Machines and Ballots Ready...

The annual [Board of Directors](#) election is just around the corner, and we need your vote! Come to FIC 2015 and hear from the Board nominees as they campaign for your votes, then cast your vote in the secret ballot box located at the Registration desk.

The [FCIA Board of Directors](#) is an elected group of Contractors passionate about advancing the Firestop industry and the interests of the FCIA. They are dedicated volunteers who give their time to help guide the Association as we look towards the future. (The FCIA Board of Directors serve three-year terms.)

The Board of Directors is elected by the FCIA Voting Membership annually, which is why we need you! Cast your vote!

Can't make FIC? That's ok. Votes may be sent to linda@FCIA.org once the nominees have been announced.



FCIA Receives Warm Welcomes in the Middle East

FCIA Executive Director, Bill McHugh, recently traveled to Doha and Abu Dhabi for the FCIA Middle East Symposiums.

Delegates from Doha welcomed FCIA with strong attendance for the [FCIA Fire & Smoke Barrier Firestop & Effective Compartmentation 'DIIM' Symposium](#) on **October 13th**, with the **FM and UL Firestop Exams** and **FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams** taking place on **October 14-15**. Many familiar faces were present, as well as some new member representatives. Many members of the Department of Civil Defence and Department of Municipal Affairs were present at the event as well.



Tom Scheidel, Koffel Associates, addresses the FCIA FM and UL Exam Prep Class in Doha.

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The Symposium featured education sessions presented by experts from Koffel Associates, Specified Technologies, Thomas Bell-Wright Consulting, Butler Engineering and FCIA. "Separation, time and distance are critical parts of a safe building," said Tom Scheidel, Koffel Associates, during his presentation. One of the key points the Symposium focused on is the fact that well-maintained fire- and smoke-barriers are important to safety and service to people in buildings worldwide.



Eng. Yasmeen Sami Saadah, Director, Regulations, addresses the delegates about implementation of the Abu Dhabi International Codes by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

After the conclusion of the FCIA FSB 'DIIM' Symposium in Doha, FCIA travelled to Abu Dhabi for the [FCIA Abu Dhabi International Building Code Fire & Smoke Protection Symposium](#) on **October 18**. The **FM and UL Firestop Exams** and **FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams** were conducted for interested Firestop Contractors and Special Inspectors in the region on **October 19-20** as well. The group was addressed by respected experts from the Department of Municipal Affairs, Specified Technologies, Thomas Bell-Wright Consulting, Butler Engineering and FCIA.

FCIA Contractor Members had a strong showing for the event, as well as honored members of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Department of Civil Defence.

With so much construction in the region, educating the not only the Contractors who install firestop systems, but also the Special Inspectors and Government Officials who inspect installed systems and the Architects and Specifiers who design, as well as the Facility personnel who maintain the installed systems, is critical. FCIA Symposiums and Education Sessions provide much needed education for the Firestop industry in the region, and we look forward to much continued support in the many years to come. showed up and supported the event as well.

FCIA Launches YouTube Channel



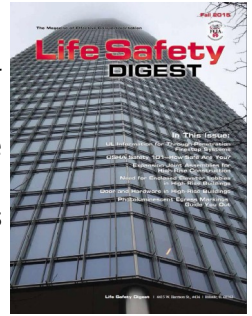
FCIA recently launched our very own [YouTube Channel](#)! The first-ever FCIA channel will feature videos focusing on the 'DIIM' of Firestopping, the codes, Barrier Management topics and more! Have something you'd like to see featured? [Let us know!](#)

[Watch. Like. Subscribe. Share.](#)

Life Safety Digest Fall Issue Drops

The latest issue of Life Safety Digest is hitting readers around the globe. This issue, focused on High-Rise Buildings, features articles such as:

- "Expansion Joint Assemblies for High-Rise Construction";
- "Doors and Hardware in High-Rise Buildings";
- "Are Enclosed Elevator Lobbies Needed in High-Rise Buildings?";
- And more!



Not a subscriber? [Request your copy today!](#)

Interested in writing for Life Safety Digest? We are always accepting submissions. To learn more about writing policies, email lindsey@FCIA.org.

Early Bird Advertising Rates for Life Safety Digest

Looking for a *budget-friendly* but **EFFECTIVE** way to advertise your business in 2016? [Consider advertising in Life Safety Digest!](#)

Did you know that *Life Safety Digest* has a hand-picked distribution to more than 12,000 subscribers worldwide? Readership includes **Specifiers, Building Owners and Managers from Healthcare, Education and other facilities, Fire Marshals, Building Code Officials, Federal, State and Provincial Government Officials, Department of Municipal Affairs and Civil Defence, Inspectors and Contractors.**

Plus, *Life Safety Digest* is distributed at several key industry trade shows and conferences, such as NFPA, CONSTRUCT, CSC, ICC, OFSEC and many more! And subscriptions continue to grow!

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For more information, contact Cathy at cathy@FCIA.org.

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FCIA Welcomes New Members

FCIA works hard to spread the word of the **'DIIM' of Firestopping** around the world, encouraging 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. When a connection is made, 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

- Advanced Energy Protection - Lancaster, PA
- Calibre Caulking, Inc. - Fergus, ON
- Dual Construction, Inc. - San Antonio, TX
- Fire-Seal, LLC - Westerville, OH
- Wies Drywall & Construction Co. - St. Louis, MO

FCIA New Contractor Branch Members

- Top Build Insulpro Projects - Sumner, WA

FCIA New International Contractor Members

- Adastra, WLL - Doha, Qatar
- Almoayyed International Group - Doha, Qatar
- CHEMTECH Technical Services, LLC - Dubai, UAE
- Commercial Places - Doha, Qatar
- E.M.C.C. Co., LLC - Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Oil Tech Contracting, WLL - Doha, Qatar

FCIA New Associate Members

- Eastern Wings Equipment - Dubai, UAE
- Firestop Consulting Associates, LLC - Littleton, CO
- K-Flex USA - Youngsville, NC
- Newborn Brothers Co., Inc. - Jessup, MC
- Speed Fastening Systems - Scarborough, ON

FCIA New Associate Branch Members

- Winroc-SPI Canada - Langley, BC

FCIA New Manufacturer Members

- Fischer Fixing, LLC - Dubai, UAE

FCIA New Manufacturer Branch Members

- 3M Fire Protection Products Canada - London, ON
- International Fireproof Technology - Palm Desert, CA

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.



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STAY CONNECTED

