

# FCIA 2024 Webinar Series

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## Reaction to Fire Versus Fire Resistance

Rich Walke, CTI Consultant to FCIA  
Bill McHugh, FCIA Technical Director

FREE STUFF – REQUEST FROM:

[Info@FCIA.org](mailto:Info@FCIA.org)

December 18, 2024



# FCIA – Firestop Contractors International Association

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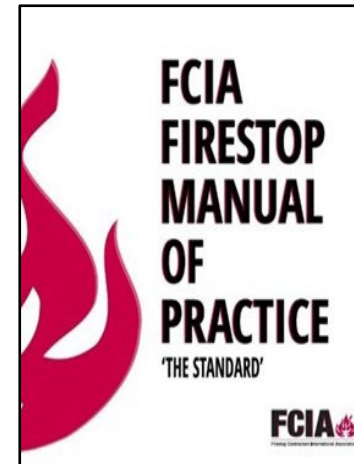


- **Fire Exits??**
- **Thanks to FCIA Members**
  - Firestop Contractors
  - Manufacturers, Consultants
  - Firestop Distributors, Reps, Friends

# FREE RESOURCES

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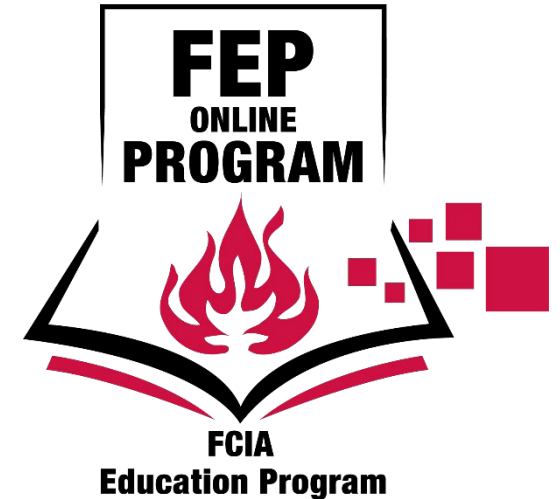
- [Info@FCIA.org](mailto:Info@FCIA.org) - **REQUEST** FREE STUFF
  - FREE Life Safety Digest
  - FREE MOP, if you Qualify....
  - Firestopping DIIM™ Story – [www.FCIA.org/About](http://www.FCIA.org/About)



# FCIA's NEWEST PROGRAM –

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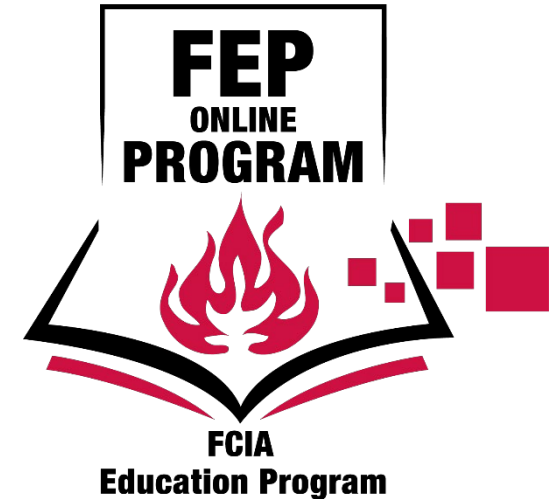
- *Accreditation*
- *Apprenticeship*
- *Code*
- *Standards*
- *Inspection*
- *Marketing/Membership*



# FCIA's NEWEST PROGRAM –

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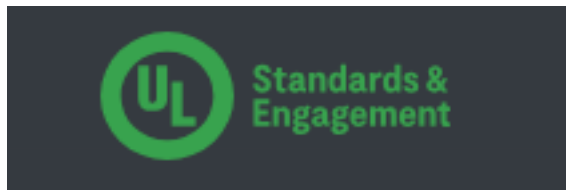
- *Education for Firestopping Careers!!*
- **FCIA's Firestop Education Program (FEP)**
  - **3.5 Hours** Level 1 – **LAUNCHED**
  - **16.5 Hours** Level 2 – **LAUNCHED**
  - **4.0 Hours** Level 3 – **LAUNCHED**
  - **? Hours** Level 0 – **Soon!**
  - **3.5 Hours** Level 1 Spanish – **Soon!**
- **24+ Hours Education...**
- **30++ Hours = Education & Exams –**
  - **Members – Unlimited Subscription**
  - **Non-Members – Visit [FCIA.org](http://FCIA.org)**
  - **SPECIFIERS, Code Officials, Fire Marshals – FREE Level 1**



# FCIA – Firestop Contractors International Association

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- **FCIA @ ASTM, ICC, NFPA, UL & ULC TC's, more...**
- **Tools @ FCIA.org ...**
  - Specifiers, Facility Directors
  - AHJ's, Building Owners
  - Firestop Contractors & Inspection Agencies
- **Advocacy....**





# FCIA – Firestop Contractors International Association

- India
- United Arab Emirates
- Qatar - Doha
- Canada
- Mexico –
- Saudi Arabia
- Australia/New Zealand–Far East

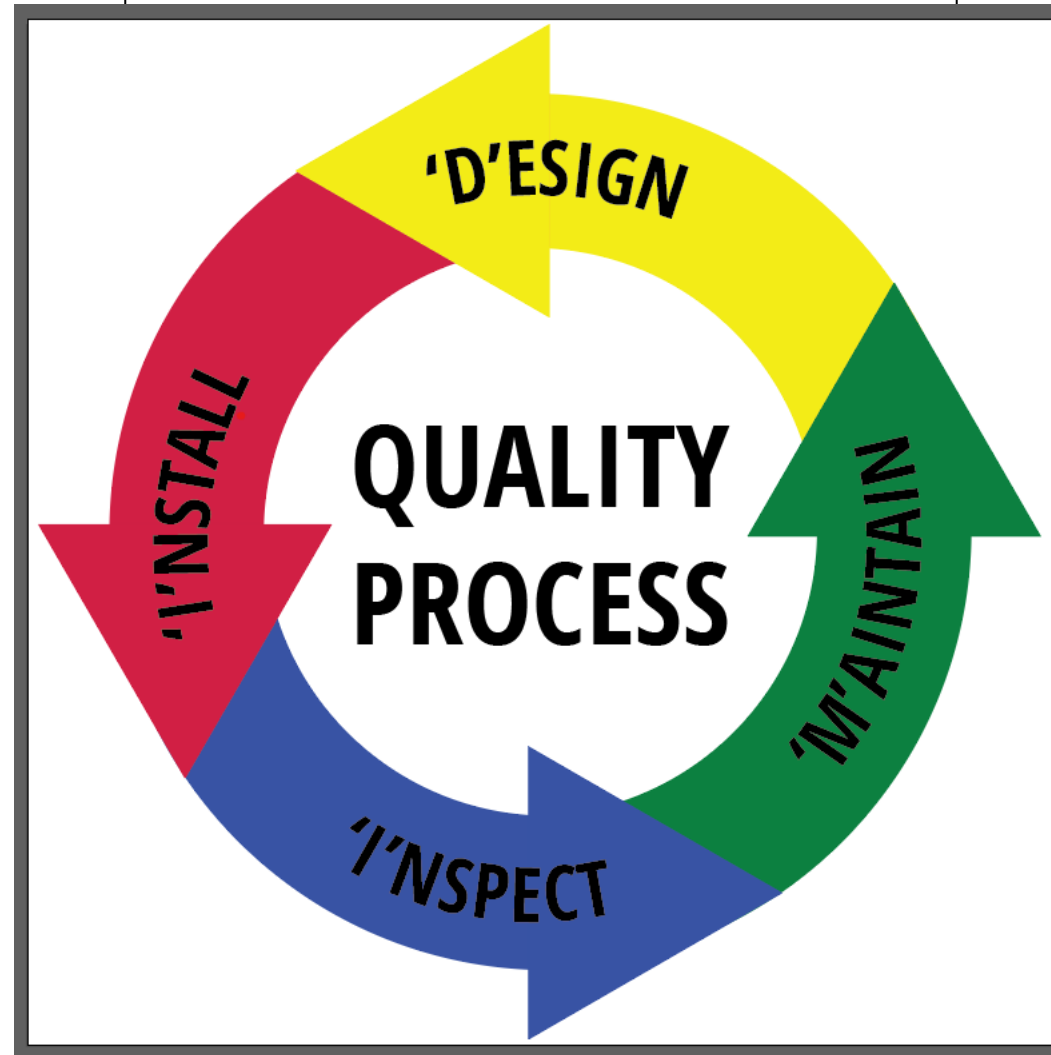


FCIA's DIIM™

**INSTALLATION**  
FM 4991/UL QFCP  
Programs AND  
Mfr. Education



**DESIGN**  
Specs, Code



PFP/BARRIERS  
**MAINTAIN**  
**PROTECTION**  
Fire Codes

**INSPECTION**  
IBC Ch. 17 -NFPA 80 - NFPA 1



# “TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION”

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- Effective Compartmentation
  - Fire Barriers, Fire Walls, Floors, Smoke Barriers
  - Firestopping, Fire Dampers, Swinging and Rolling Fire Doors, Fire-Rated Glazing
  - Fire-Resistive Protection for Ductwork
- Detection & Alarm Systems
- Sprinkler Suppression Systems
- Education & Egress –
  - Building Owners & Managers, Building Occupants and Firefighters

# FCIA Webinar Series

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**Rich Walke, CTI,  
Consultant to FCIA**

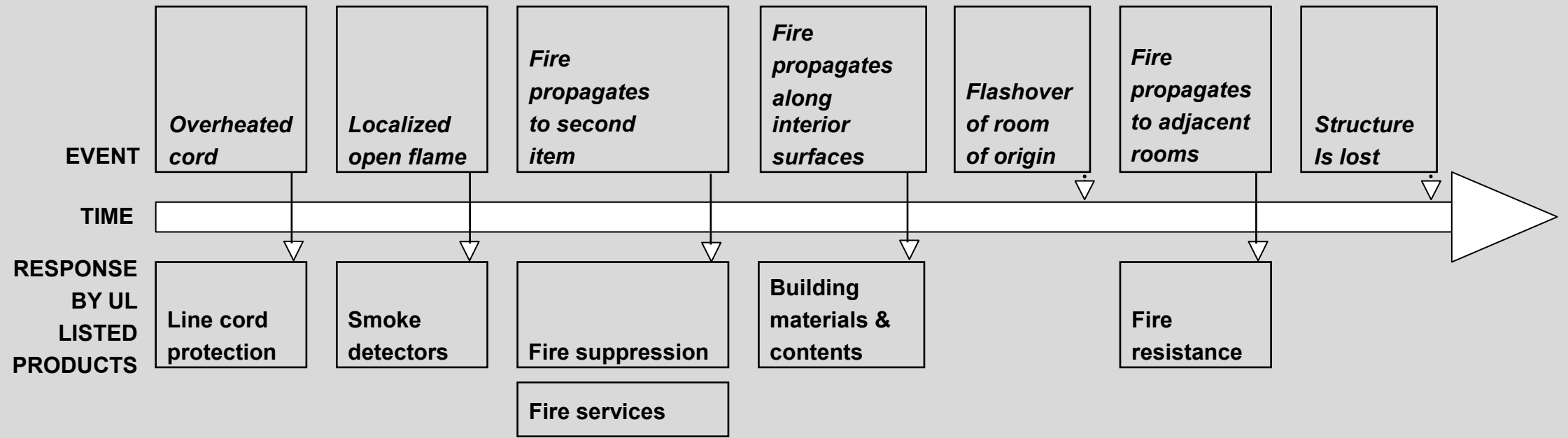


## **Reaction to Fire Versus Fire-Resistance**

**Bill McHugh, FCIA**



# Fire Event Timeline



# Reaction to Fire vs Fire-Resistance

## What's the Difference???

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- Reaction to Fire
  - Reaction to fire standards address keeping a small fire small
  - Evaluates flame propagation over the surface of the material
    - i.e. surface flammability
  - Based on the requirements of the following Chapters of the International Building Code:
    - Chapter 8 – Interior Finishes
    - Chapter 15 – Roofing Assemblies and Rooftop Structures
    - Chapter 26 – Plastics
    - Perhaps others

# Fire-Resistance vs Reaction to Fire

## What's the Difference???

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- Fire-Resistance
  - Assumes you already have a post-flashover fire condition
  - Evaluates the ability of the materials and methods of construction to resist the long-term impact of fire
  - Intended to contain the fire to the room or floor or origin and to maintain structural integrity of the building



# Fire-Resistance vs Reaction to Fire

## What's the Difference???

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- Based on the requirements of Chapter 7 of the International Building Code covering Fire and Smoke Protection Features
  - Structural fire resistance
  - Containment of the fire
- Requires the protection of all breaches in the barriers
  - Penetrations
  - Joints and Voids
  - Opening Protectives
  - Duct and Air Transfer Openings

# Reaction to Fire vs Fire-Resistance

## What Should Not Happen

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# Reaction to Fire

## What Should Not Happen

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**Legacy Room**  
(Natural Materials)



**Modern Room**  
(Synthetic Materials)



120 seconds

# Interior Finishes – IBC Chapter 8

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- Referenced Standards
  - Steiner Tunnel
    - UL 723 / ASTM E84 – Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
  - Room Corner Tests
    - NFPA 286 – Fire Tests for Evaluating Contribution of Wall and Ceiling Interior Finish to Room Fire Growth
    - NFPA 265 – Fire Tests for Evaluating Room Fire Growth Contribution of Textile or Expanded Vinyl Wall Coverings on Full Height Panels and Walls

# Interior Finishes – IBC Chapter 8 Cont.

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- Flooring Testing
  - ASTM E648 / NFPA 253 – Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source
  - DOC FF-1 / ASTM E2859 – Standard Test Method for Ignition Characteristics of Finished Textile Floor Covering Materials



# UL 723 / ASTM E 84 (Steiner Tunnel) Test

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- Measures ***Surface Burning Characteristics***
  - Flame Spread Index (FSI)
  - Smoke Developed Index (SDI)
- Measures performance of material under test relative to comparative samples of:
  - Inorganic reinforced cement board (FSI / SDI = 0)
  - Red oak (FSI / SDI = 100)

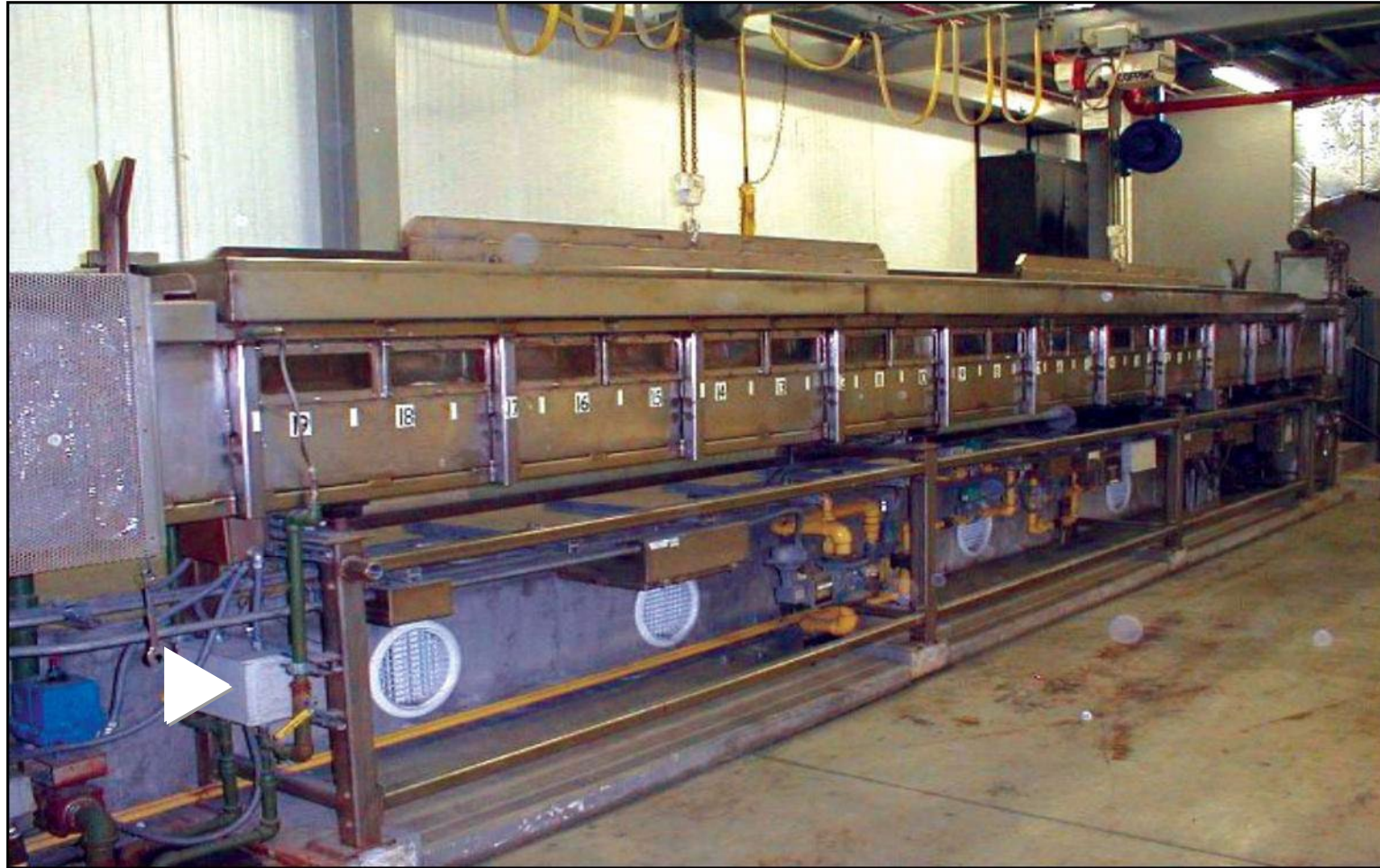
# UL 723 / ASTM E 84 (Steiner Tunnel) Test Cont.

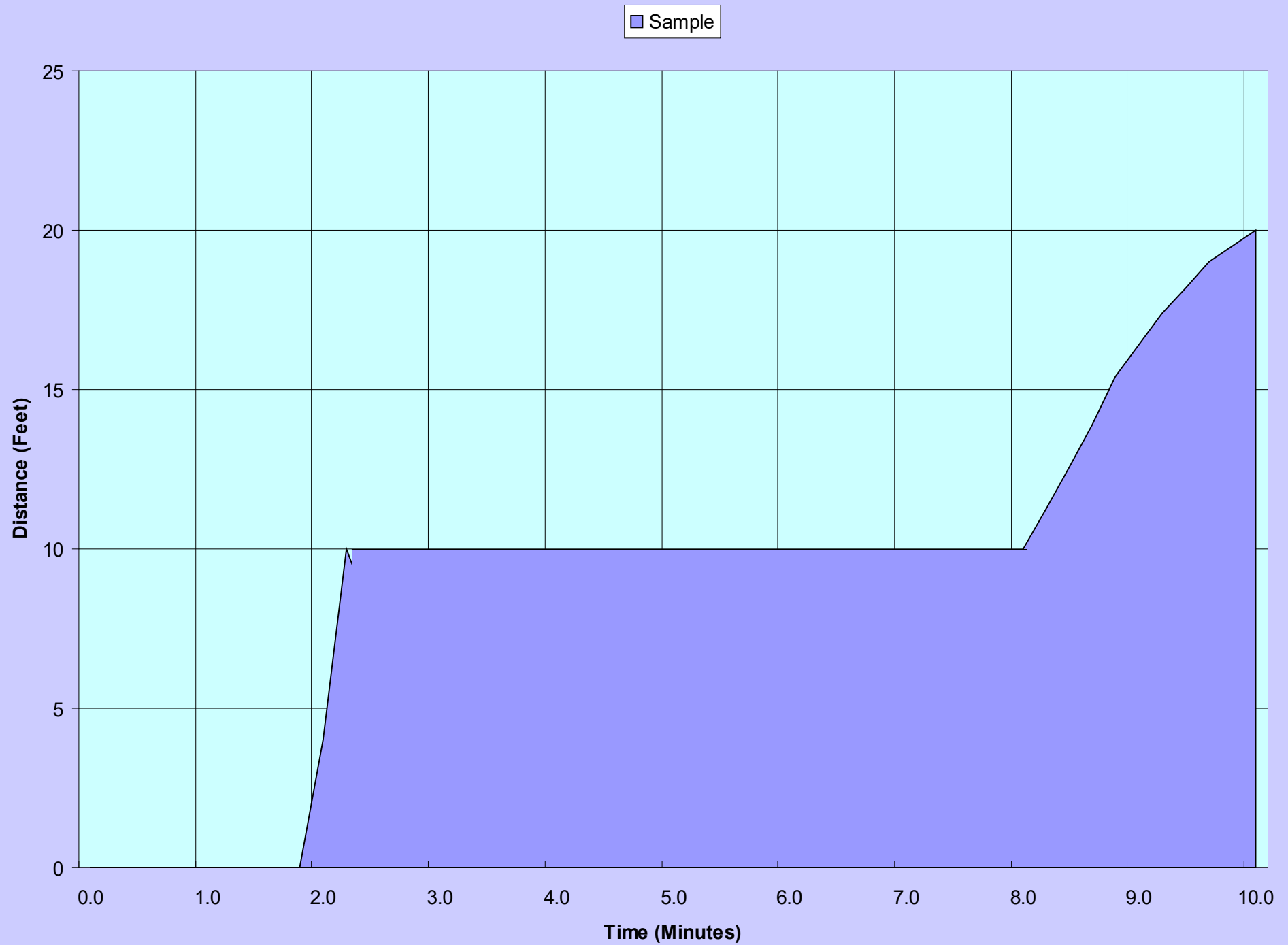
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- IBC requires Class A, B or C performance based on occupancy and the use of sprinklers
  - Class A – FSI of 0 to 25, SDI of 0 to 450
  - Class B – FSI of 26 to 75, SDI of 0 to 450
  - Class C – FSI of 76 to 200, SDI of 0 to 450

# Steiner Tunnel Video

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# NFPA 286

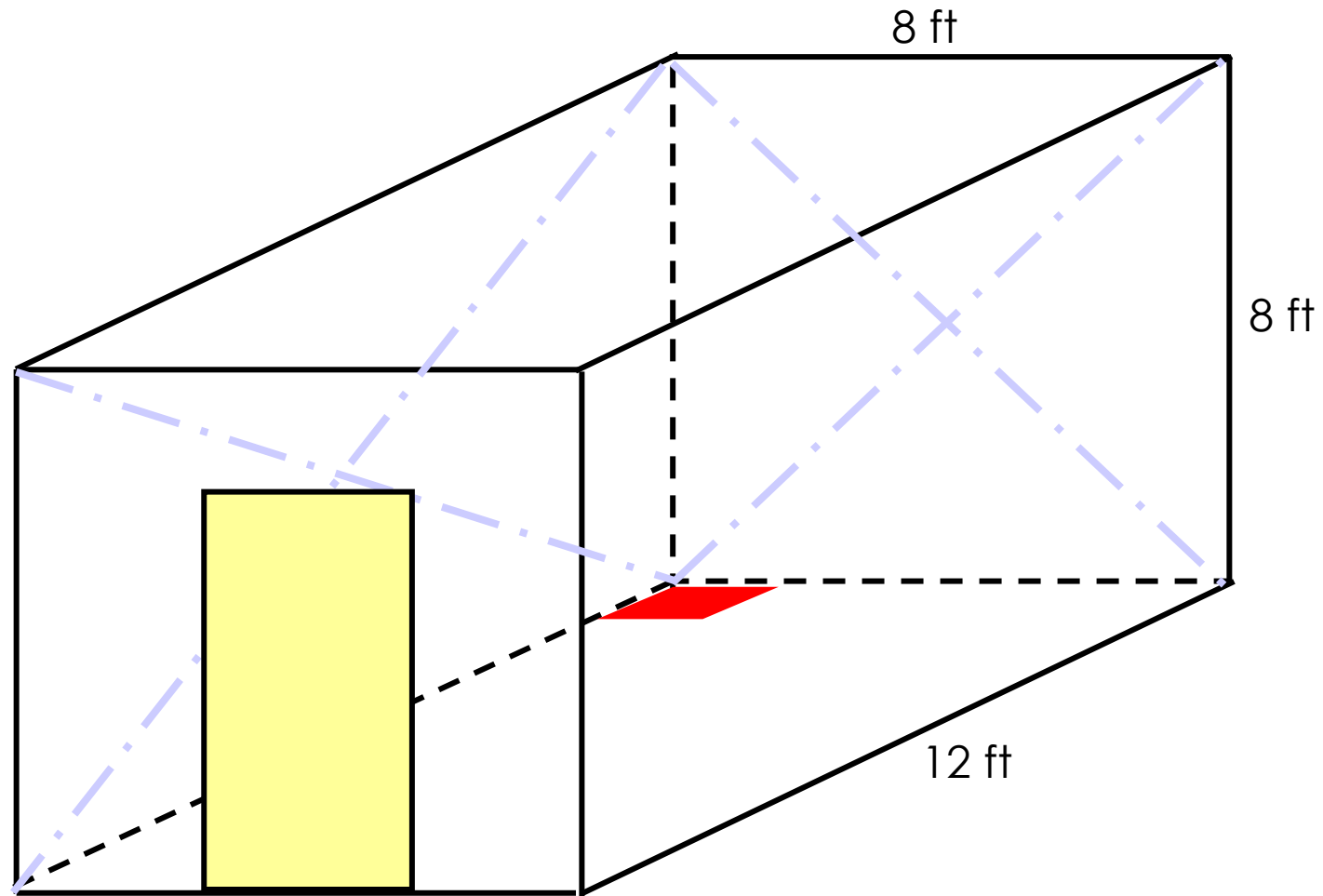
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- Evaluates surface flammability of wall, ceiling, or wall and ceiling interior finish materials other than textiles
- Considered one of four enclosed corner tests
- Developed as a spin-off NFPA 265
- Advantage of corner testing over Steiner Tunnel testing is ability to determine if material will stay in place on wall and/or ceiling
- Standard is a test method only
- Acceptance criteria detailed in code based on test method specified in Standard



# NFPA 286 Cont.

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# NFPA 286 Cont.

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- Test room constructed of steel studs / calcium silicate or gypsum board
- Material under tests installed on walls, ceiling, or walls and ceilings as specified by manufacturer
- Coatings installed on standard substrate
- Collection hood located above doorway to collect by-products of combustion

## NFPA 286 Cont.

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- Thermocouples installed at various points around room
- Paper flashover targets installed on floor at two locations
- Heat flux meter installed on floor
- Fuel provided by gas burner, calibrated in test room to provide rate of heat release of 40 kW and 160 kW

# NFPA 286 Cont.

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- Gas burner ignited and adjusted to provide 40 kW fire for 5 min
- Gas flow increased to provide 160 kW fire for an additional 10 min
- Condition of Acceptance from IBC
  - During the 40 kW exposure, flames shall not spread to the ceiling
  - The flame shall not spread to the outer extremity of the sample on any wall or ceiling
  - Flashover, as defined in NFPA 286, shall not occur
  - The peak heat release rate throughout the test shall not exceed 800 kW
  - The total smoke released throughout the test shall not exceed 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>

# NFPA 253 / ASTM E648

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- NFPA 253 / ASTM E648 – Standard Method Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Coverings Systems Using A Radiant Heat Energy Source (First Edition – 1978)
- Evaluates surface flammability of floor covering materials based on radiant heat exposure
- Original concept developed by the Armstrong Cork Company in 1966



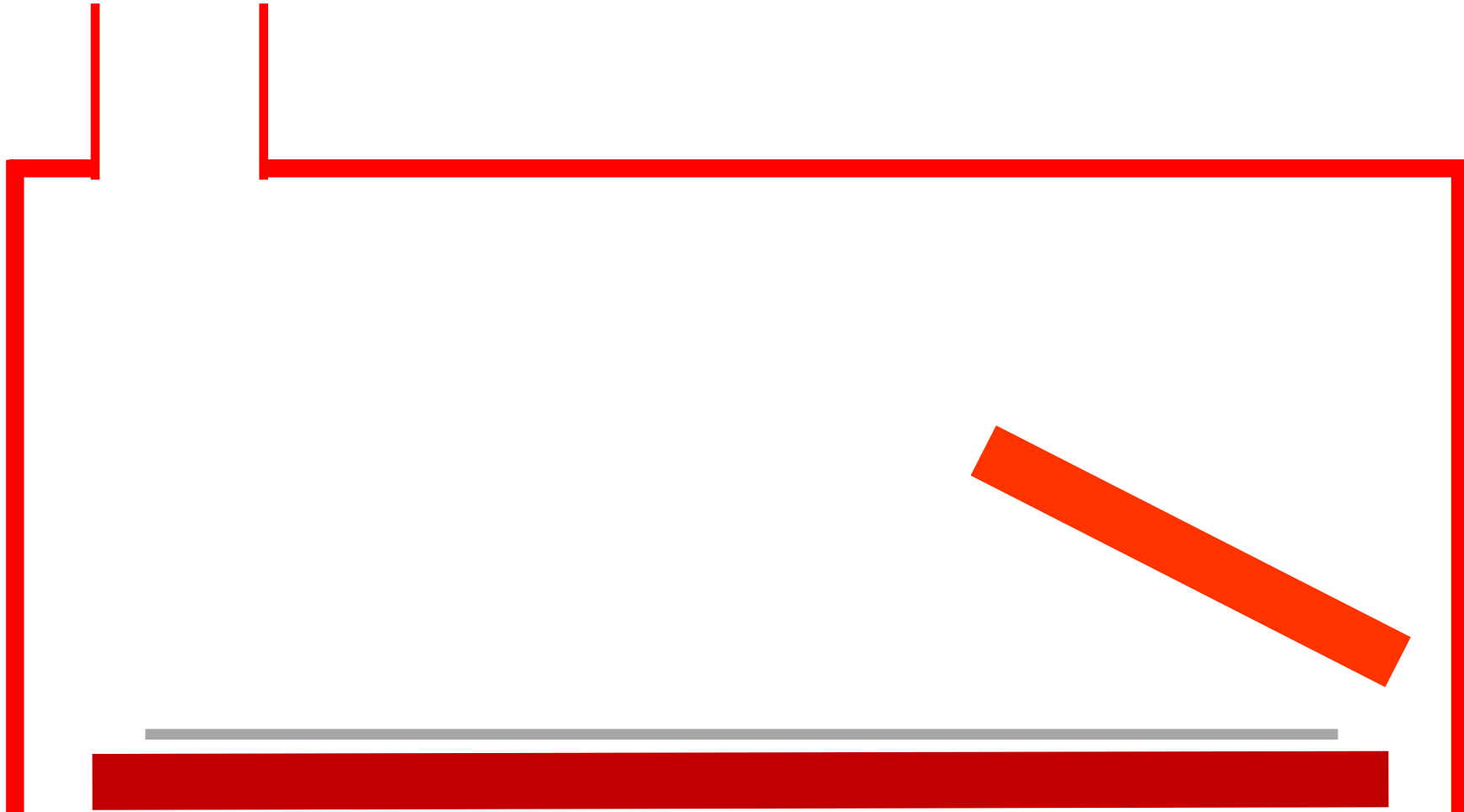
# NFPA 253 / ASTM E648 Cont.

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- Test method developed by the National Bureau of Standards in the early 70s
- Standard is a test method only
- Acceptance criteria detailed in code based on test method specified in Standard

# NFPA 253 / ASTM E648 Cont.

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# NFPA 253 / ASTM E648 Cont.

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- Furnace calibrated to relate radiant flux to distance from radiant burner
- Furnace preheated using radiant panel burner for 1-1/2 hr
- Floor covering material installed on substrate placed at bottom of furnace chamber
- After 5 min, sample ignited using pilot burner
- Test continued until maximum flame propagation occurs

# NFPA 253 / ASTM E648 Cont.

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- Flame propagation distance recorded and critical radiant flux calculated based on calibration data
- Critical radiant flux is the radiant heat flux at which sample will not support combustion

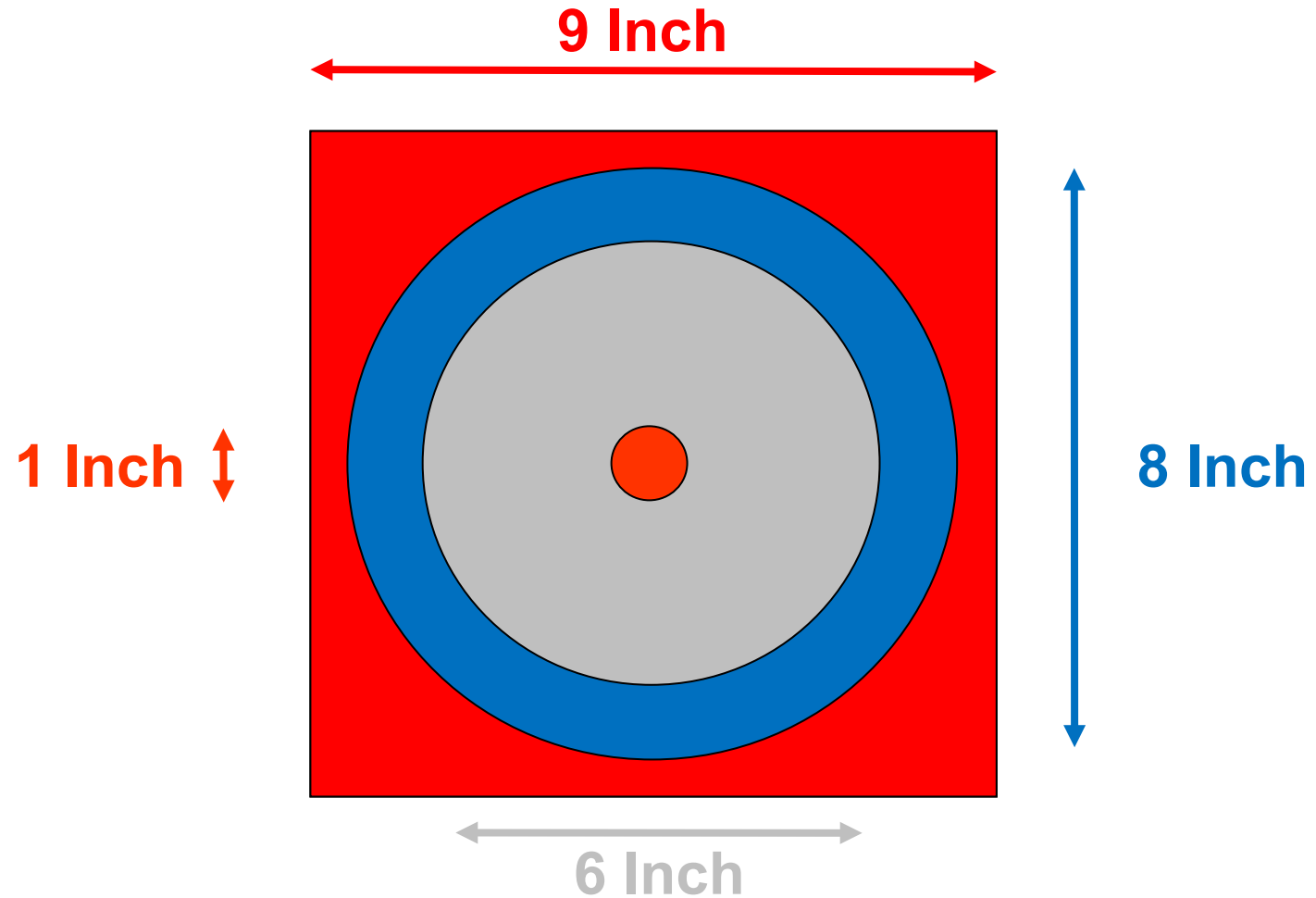
# DOC FF-1

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- Department of Commerce Test DOC FF-1 – Standard for the Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs
- Developed by Department of Commerce many decades ago
- Conducted in a 12 in. by 12 in. by 12 in. chamber
- Uses Methenamine pill as ignition source

# DOC FF-1 Cont.

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## DOC FF-1 Cont.

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- Eight individual sample tested per construction of floor covering
- Acceptance Criteria
  - Charring shall not extend to within 1 in. of steel plate in 7 of 8 samples

# Plastics – IBC Chapter 26

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- Referenced Standards
  - Steiner Tunnel
    - UL 723 / ASTM E84 – Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
    - UL 1256 – Fire Test of Roof Deck Construction
  - Room Corner Tests
    - NFPA 286 – Fire Tests for Evaluating Contribution of Wall and Ceiling Interior Finish to Room Fire Growth



# UL 1256

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- Measures flammability on underside of roof deck constructions using foamed plastic insulation on top of deck
- Sample incorporates a longitudinal seam in the roof deck along centerline of furnace chamber, which allows involvement of foam plastic
- Uses Steiner Tunnel furnace
- Maximum allowable flame propagation during 30 minute fire exposure
  - 10 feet in 10 min
  - 14 ft in 30 min

# Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures – IBC Chapter 15

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- Referenced Standards
  - Roofing Systems – Exterior Spread of Flame Over Roof Covering
    - UL 790 / ASTM E108 – Fire Tests of Roof Coverings

# UL 790 / ASTM E108

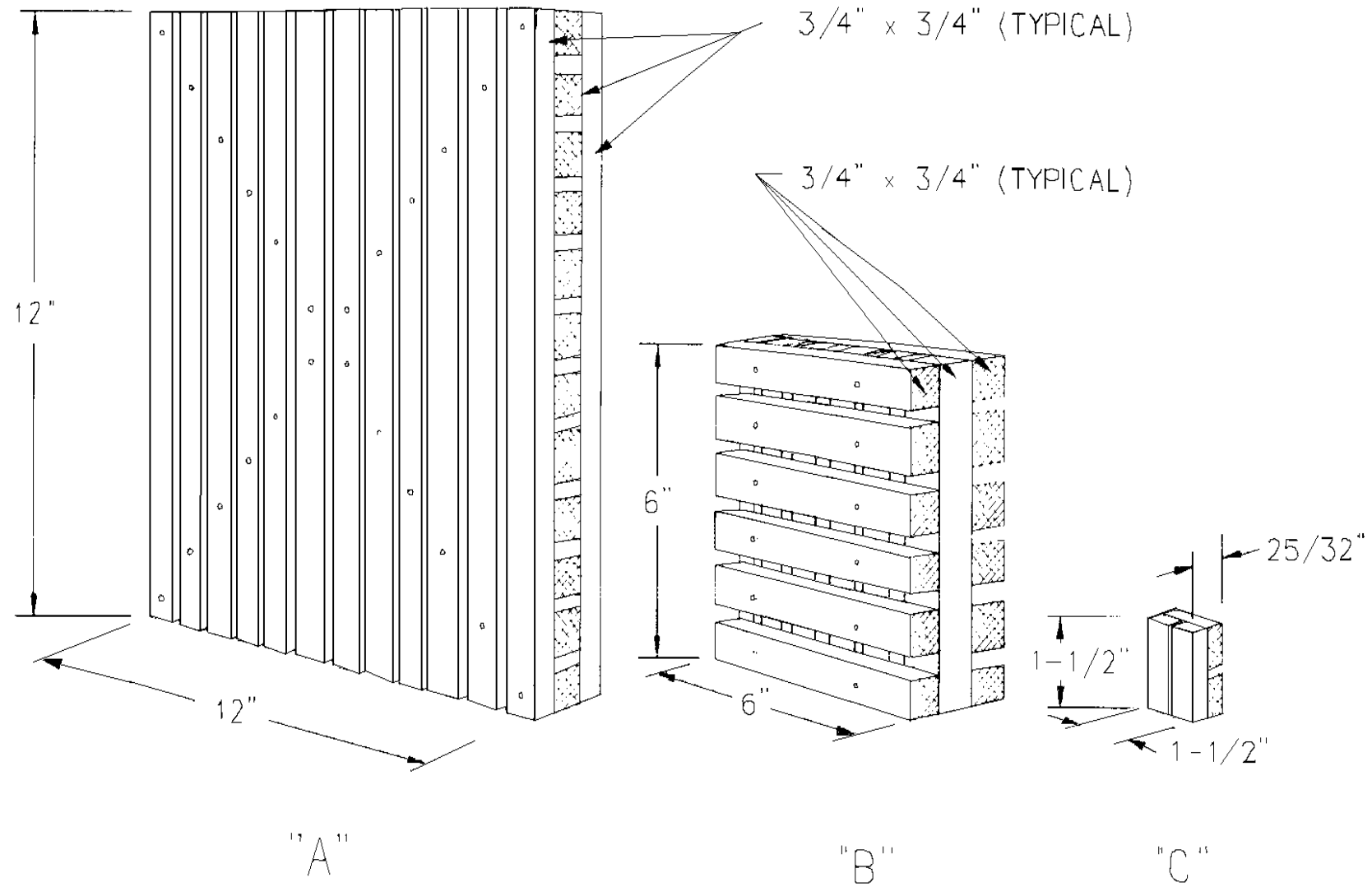
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- Measures
  - Spread of Flame over Roofing System based on an exterior fire exposure
  - Ability of Roofing System to prevent ignition on underside of combustible deck
  - Ability of Roofing System to resist ignition due to flaming embers

# UL 790 / ASTM E108 Fire Test



Figure 8.1  
"A," "B," and "C" brands



# Fire-Resistance – What Reaction to Fire is NOT

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# Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction Cont.

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- Assumes you already have a post-flashover fire condition
- Evaluates the ability of the materials and methods of construction to resist the long-term impact of fire
- Intended to contain the fire to the room or floor or origin and to maintain structural integrity of the building
- Based on the requirements of Chapter 7 of the International Building Code covering Fire and Smoke Protection Features

# Building & Fire Code Requirements

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- International Codes –
  - New and Existing Buildings – International Building Code – Chapter 7
  - Maintenance – International Fire Code – Chapter 7
- NFPA Codes –
  - New and Existing Buildings – NFPA 5000 & 101 – Chapter 8
  - Maintenance – NFPA 101 & 1
- Canadian Codes –
  - New and Existing Buildings – National Building Code of Canada
  - Maintenance – National Fire Code of Canada
- UAE Fire and Life Safety Code – Chapter 1, Section 21
- Other Worldwide Codes
- ***Minimum requirements - Construction & Maintaining Protection***



# Fire Resistance

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- **Products Become Designs, Systems & Assemblies Based on Testing**
  - **Fire & Smoke Barriers - Fire Separations** – ASTM E119 / UL 263 / ULC-S101
  - **Firestopping** – UL 1479 / ASTM E814 / ULC-S115, UL 2079 / E1966 / ULC-S115, E2307 / ULC-S115, E2837 ...test methods...”
  - **Swinging/Rolling Fire Doors** – UL 10B, UL 10C, NFPA 252, ULC-S104. ULC-S105, ULC-S113
  - **Fire Rated Glazing** – UL 9 / NFPA 257 / ULC-S106, UL 263 / ASTM E119 / ULC-S101
  - **Fire/Smoke Dampers** – UL 555 / ULC-S112, UL 555S / ULC-S112.1, UL 555C / ULC-S112.2 / UL 263 / ASTM E119
- **All tests are conducted for some hourly time period**

# Fire Resistance

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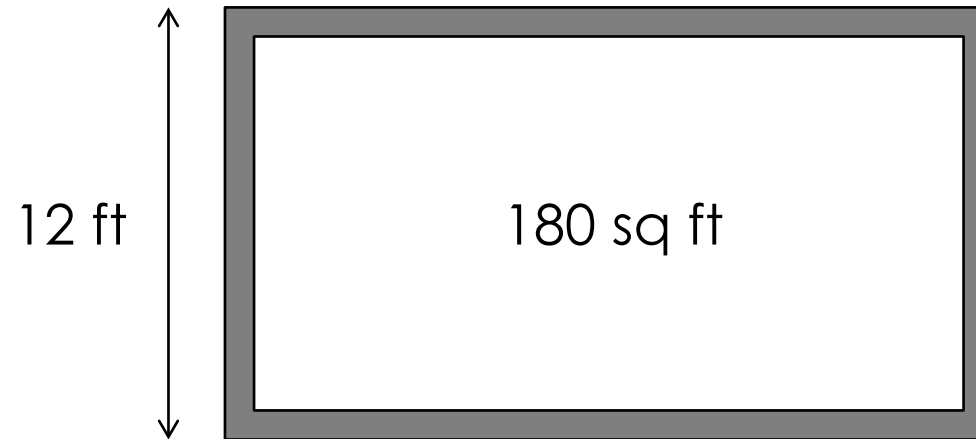
- Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 establish the required ratings
- Chapter 7 establishes how the rating is determined
- Rating expressed as an Hourly Time Period
- Ratings range from 1/2 to 4 hours
- Contain Fire to Room or Floor of Origin and Maintain Structural Integrity

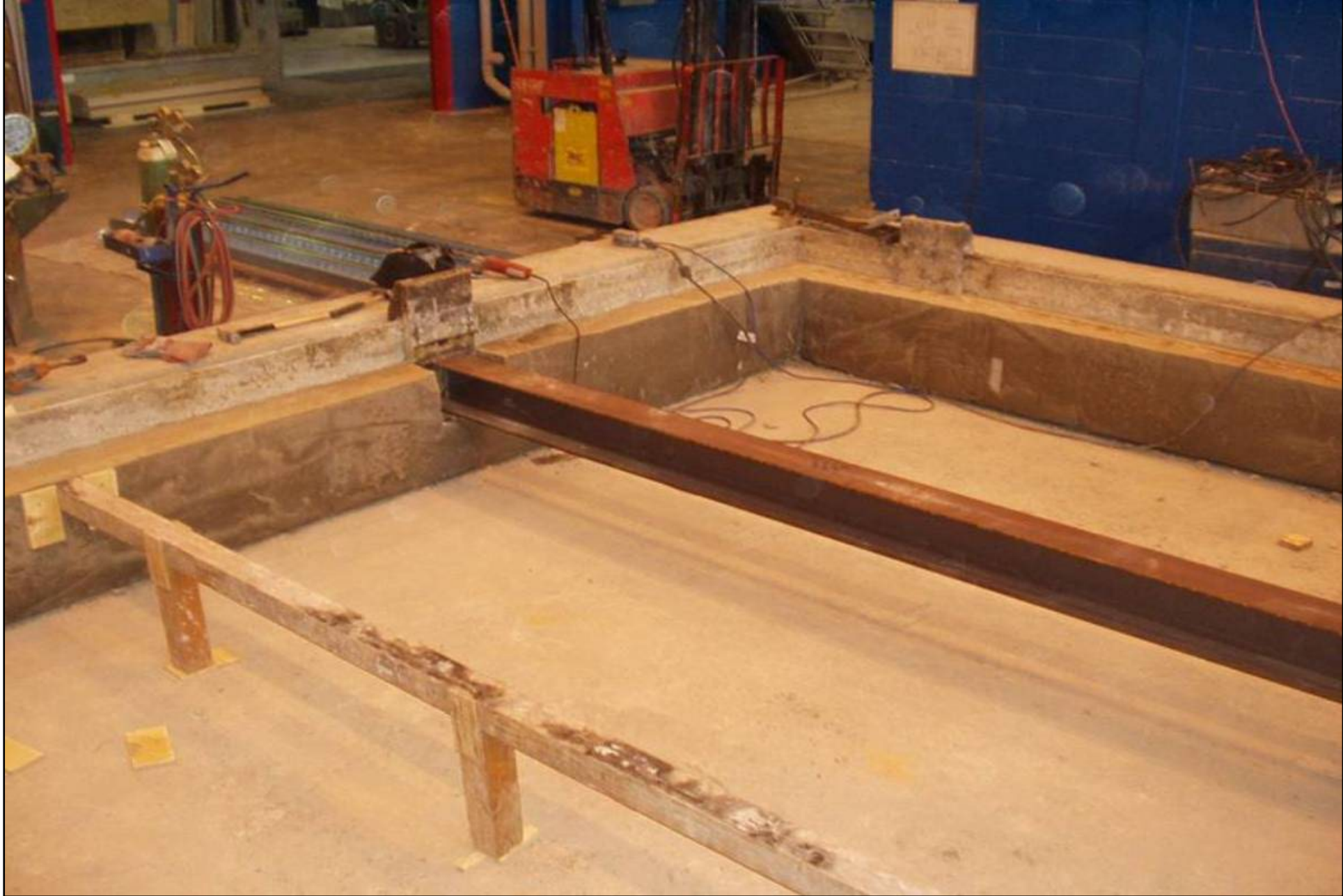


# Floor/Ceiling or Roof/Ceilings

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- Sample size – 180 sq ft / 12 ft
- Load applied – Per design





UL Image





UL Image



UL Image





UL Image



UL Image





UL Image

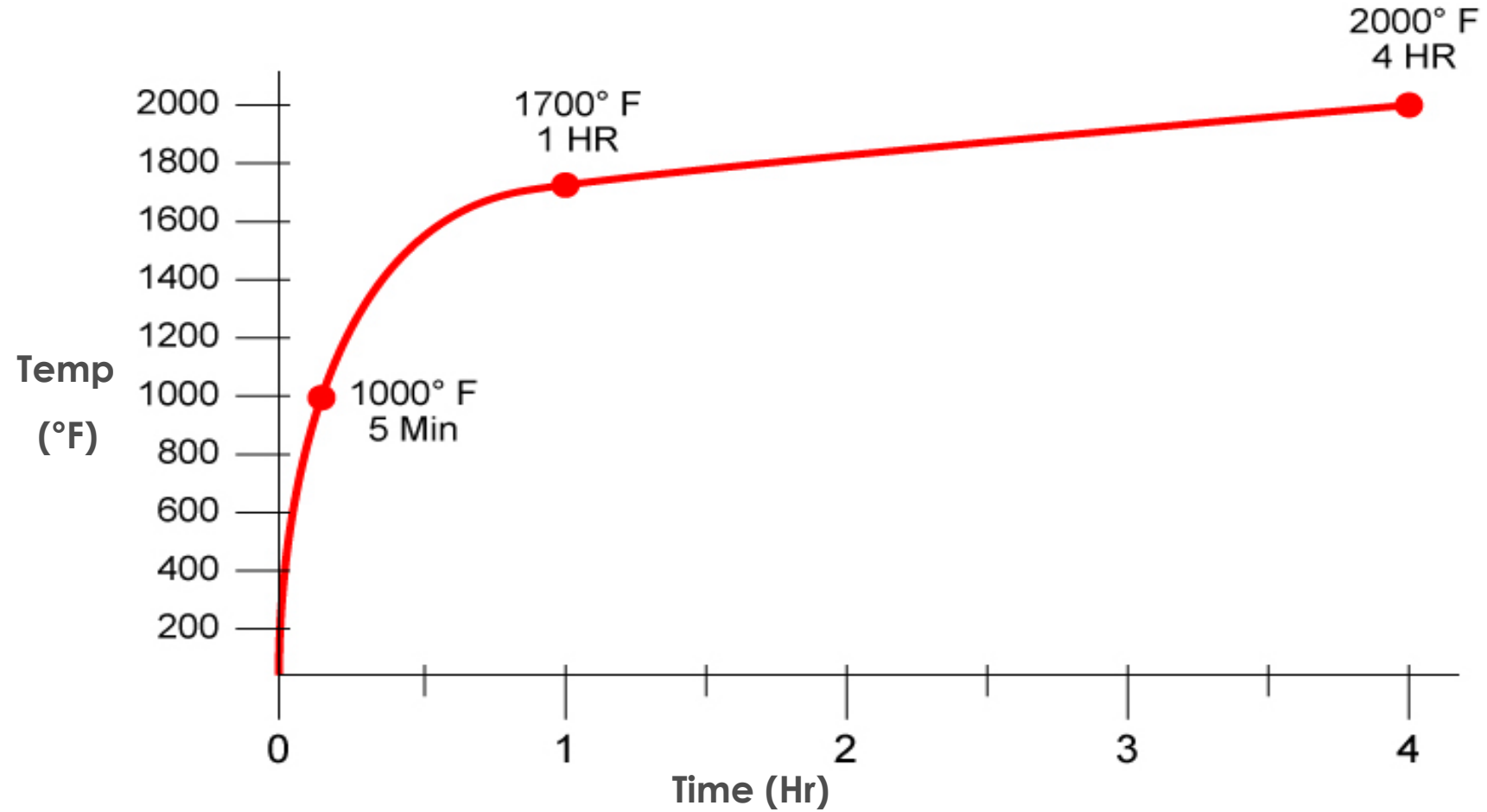




UL Image

# Time – Temperature Curve

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# Conditions of Acceptance

## Floor/Ceilings or Roof/Ceilings

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- Support load
- Flame passage
- 250°F / 325°F
- Support temperatures



# Firestopping Penetrations for Continuity

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- **Products become SYSTEMS Based on Testing**
- **‘Field Erected Construction...Tested to...’**
  - Standards – UL 1479, ASTM E814, FM 4990, ULC-S115
  - US Ratings:
    - F Rating – Flame
    - T Rating – Temperature
    - L Rating – Smoke
    - W Rating – Water
    - M Rating – Movement



3M Photo



# Firestopping Fire-Resistant Joints Systems for Continuity

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- **Products become SYSTEMS Based on Testing**
- **‘Field Erected Construction...Tested to...’**
  - Standards – UL 2079, ASTM E1966, ULC-S115
  - Assembly Rating – Flame & Temperature
  - L Rating – Smoke
  - W Rating – Water



# Firestopping Perimeter Fire Containment Systems for Continuity

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- **Products become SYSTEMS Based on Testing**
- **‘Field Erected Construction...Tested to...’**
  - Standards – ASTM E2307, ULC-S115
  - F Rating – Flame
  - T Rating – Temperature
  - Integrity Rating – Flame
  - Insulation Rating – Temperature
  - L Rating – Smoke



# Summary

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- Reaction to Fire
  - Reaction to fire standards address keeping a small fire small
  - Evaluates flame propagation over the surface of the material
    - i.e. surface flammability
- Fire-Resistance
  - Assumes you already have a post-flashover fire condition
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# Summary Cont.

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- Intended to contain the fire to the room or floor or origin and to maintain structural integrity of the building
- Requires the protection of all breaches in the barriers
  - Penetrations
  - Joints and Voids
  - Opening Protectives
  - Duct and Air Transfer Openings

# Questions??



# Thanks for Attending!!!

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