

Upcoming Events

May 11	FCIA Life Safety Digest Committee Meeting
May 27	FCIA Webinar
June 17	FCIA Extended Webinar
June 23	FCIA Webinar

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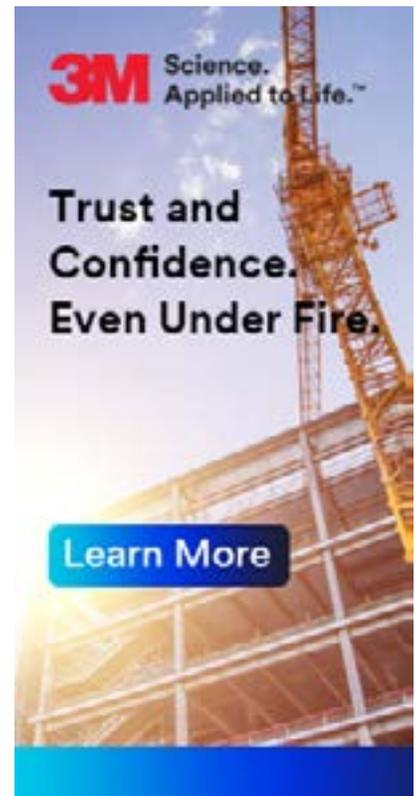


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FCIA BOARD MEETS 3x in MARCH

Anticipating the opening of FCIA's Education and Committee Action Conference – ECA '20 – originally scheduled for early May, the FCIA Board came together multiple times in March to assess the environment, look at budgets, plan Committee activities, and make decisions in the best interests of members and the association.

Many thanks to President Ben Urcavich and the entire FCIA Board for giving time – a lot of it – during this pandemic. As a result, the FCIA ECA '20 Conference was cancelled, and a new plan put in place...



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ECA '20 GOES VIRTUAL



With all the concern globally about the COVID-19 pandemic, the FCIA Board made the decision to cancel the FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference originally scheduled for early May in Kansas City, MO. This is the first-time an FCIA Board has had to make the tough decision to cancel a Conference. And this WAS an incredibly difficult decision for the Board.

During Board conversations, it was imperative to all Board members that FCIA make a decision that satisfied the responsibility to make sound decisions for the Association AND the membership. All options were discussed (cont'd on page 2)

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ECA '20 GOES VIRTUAL cont'd

(cont'd from page 1) with FCIA Members' safety kept front-of-mind. The discussions centered on finding a way to provide technical firestop education to FCIA Members this spring, despite the cancellation of ECA '20 in Kansas City.

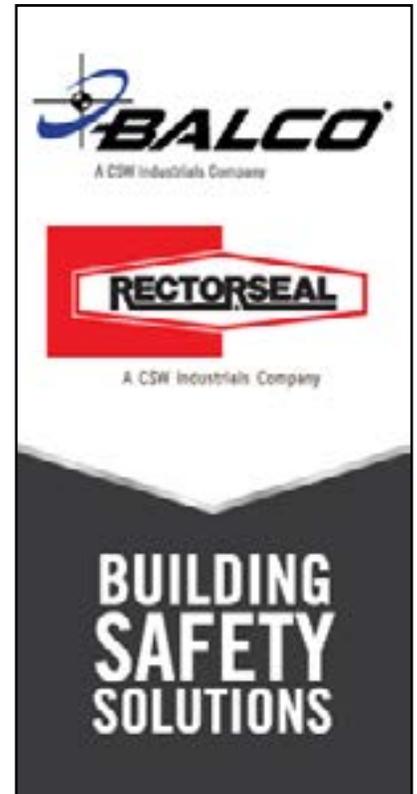
With travel restrictions in place globally and growing concerns over the rapidly-developing coronavirus pandemic, the FCIA Board focused on delivering the same technical education FCIA Members expect from the in-person Conference experience, but delivering it via virtual platform.

The goal: deliver firestop education to FCIA Members while supporting worldwide "defend-in-place" initiatives implemented.

The solution: Virtual ECA '20!

On April 21-24, FCIA Members and some non-members tuned in for four days of two-hour webinars on various aspects of firestop education. Sessions covered a variety of topics, including:

- **Leadership** – FCIA's 2020 President Ben Urcavich opened the program with a report that FCIA is financially sound through the novel coronavirus COVID-19. His comments also looked to the future and the question of where FCIA Members will find opportunities after the pandemic.
- **Economics** – Anirban Basu (Sage Policy Group), economic consultant to various construction associations, gave insight into what to possibly expect for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020. He also highlighted building types that will likely get funding from various sources, key building types for FCIA Members to focus on for business during and after the pandemic. These building types included hospitals, airports, universities, and more. FCIA Members should plan now, so that when funding is released, they can capitalize on the opportunity to help protect people in these buildings thorough Firestopping and Barrier Management Services.
- **Air and Smoke Movement** – Chris Kusel of HILTI, an FCIA Platinum Manufacturer Partner, presented about air and smoke movement in buildings, specifically highlighting how L-Rated Firestop Systems help keep buildings safe.
- **Fire-Resistance and Existing Buildings** – FCIA's Bill McHugh and Rich Walke, FCIA Consultant, presented on the opportunity to provide safety in existing buildings. Health care occupancies, specifically hospitals, seem to be where the most attention is given for effective compartmentation. But, what about other occupancies, like high-rise buildings, multi-family buildings, nursing homes, hotels, educational facilities, universities, and more? People live, work, and stay in these facilities, making fire and life safety an integral need. The FCIA Member knowledge is best to maintain the effective compartmentation at its original level of fire- and smoke-resistance.



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ECA '20 GOES VIRTUAL cont'd

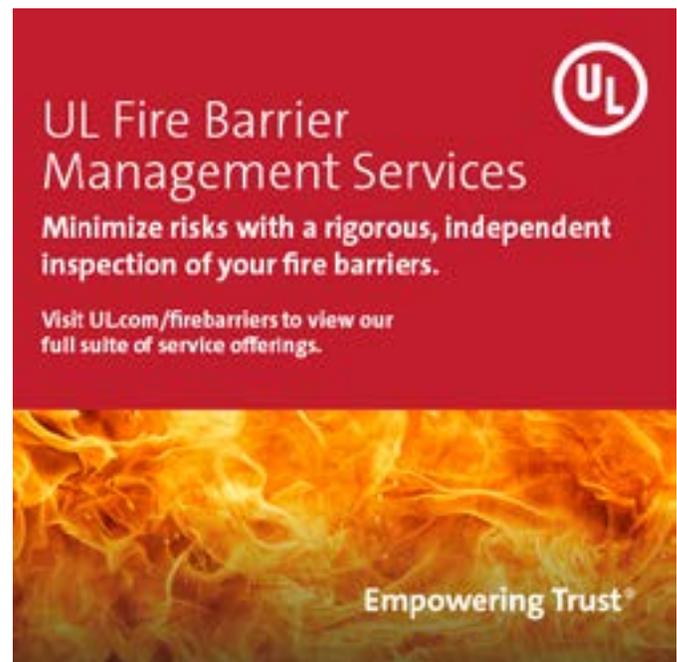
- **Expansion Joints** – Platinum Manufacturer Partner CSW-Balco/Rectorseal's Steve Cooper presented on expansion joints, both fire-resistance-rated and non-rated, providing education on an additional business opportunity for FCIA Members to pursue.
- **Barrier Management Symposium: Test Standards** - FCIA's Rich Walke presented the standards portion of FCIA/ASHE/TJC/UL's Barrier Management Symposium. He covered the many fire-test standards used for all the features of fire-resistance. An FCIA Member who is knowledgeable on all the fire-resistance details, in addition to firestopping knowledge, adds to the company's value proposition.
- **Endothermic Technology** - Samantha Peterson of 3M, FCIA Platinum Manufacturer Partner, presented a program on endothermic wraps being used to optimize protection of critical electrical and communications circuits and structural steel. Her presentation brought the technology and educated members on this subject.
- **Barrier Management Symposium: Codes** - FCIA Code Consultant Bill Koffel presented the code portion of FCIA/ASHE/TJC/UL's Barrier Management Symposium, defining fire and smoke barriers, fire walls, fire partitions, and smoke partitions, how they are defined, and what they do to protect people in buildings. FCIA Members get how to protect these barriers in all types of facilities.
- **Firestopping Health Care Facilities** – FCIA Platinum Manufacturer Partner Specified Technologies, Inc.'s Kelly Mason and Consultant Doug Erickson covered the importance of firestopping in hospital facilities and how barrier management fits into a hospital's safety plan. Doug's experience with the Facility Guideline Institute provided insight into how FCIA Members can serve these facilities.
- **New Initiative** - FCIA's 2020 President then

requested that those on the virtual conference be ambassadors for firestopping, fire-resistance in existing buildings, and FCIA. He encouraged everyone to speak about the importance of ALL pieces of fire-resistance to everyone you know. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can change the current culture that lets fire-resistance-rated assemblies become breached everywhere to a culture focused on having the Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor and Barrier Management Services Contractor fix these barriers. Sprinklers and alarms are maintained and repaired. Firestopping and fire/smoke or other barriers need to be maintained and repaired too.

In addition to the big new initiative announcement, FCIA Members and non-members experienced a great program, great content, and a great way to catch up virtually – while hearing from industry leading FCIA Manufacturer Member Partners.

FCIA Members, the recordings are in the [FCIA.org Members Only](https://www.fcia.org/members-only) section.

Not a member? [Join now](https://www.fcia.org/join). Know someone who should be a member? Email info@fcia.org and we'll help.



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Empowering Trust

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NEW FCIA INITIATIVE

At FCIA's Virtual ECA '20 Conference, FCIA launched a new initiative to get fire and life safety improvements using the FCIA's 'DIIM' for Existing Buildings.

FCIA's 2020 President Ben Urcavich stated, "The world pays attention to sprinklers and alarms, what about effective compartmentation and its many benefits? How many ceiling tiles have we all moved and found breaches in important fire and smoke barriers that are there to protect people from fire, smoke, and air spread?"



"FCIA Members provide the services needed – with knowledge enough to be responsible individuals in firestopping and effective compartmentation – helping keep buildings safe for all," he continued.

Urcavich further encouraged, "We need the whole firestop industry – Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors,

Manufacturers, Special Inspection Agencies, Distributors, Manufacturers' representatives, and friends of FCIA to help in this charge. We already see FCIA Members taking action and delivering new webinars to educate about the importance of our industry."

"If everyone at FCIA educates someone about what firestopping and effective compartmentation is – and the importance of our industry - we'll make a difference in the demand for safe buildings delivered by FCIA Members," said Ben.

FCIA has already started to help you with this initiative to help make existing buildings safe. FCIA's Committees developed and are refining educational content to help FCIA Members protect breaches – all of them – in existing buildings. FCIA Member Firestop Contractors understand the concept that fire-resistance-rated and smoke-resistant assemblies are different than "regular" non-rated walls. They need to be repaired so that listed systems are not compromised.



Fire doors need to be inspected annually. Fire dampers need to be checked every 6 years in hospitals, every 4 years in all other occupancies. Firestopping needs to protect breaches made for new services in buildings. And, L-Rated Firestopping – and the smoke and sound sealants - might be a way to protect non-rated assemblies that need to stop air movement from room to room.

FCIA's call-to-action for FCIA Members is to get ready now.

"Get ready now by building lists of potential buildings where people and property need to be protected," stated Urcavich.

According to Anirban Basu (Sage Policy Group), this list of buildings is bigger now than it used to be. FCIA Members must be ready to service all types of existing buildings, not just hospitals. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that all of these buildings need greater protection against air movement and the things air can carry. As soon as the COVID-19 crisis is over and people start to occupy public spaces again, it is likely that building types that never considered air movement before will look to make improvements in protection, and some of these improvements may also involve non-fire-resistance-rated operations.

FCIA is here to help you get ready to protect existing buildings.

We have the new [Barrier Management Services](#) section of [FCIA.org](#) where Barrier Management Services providers can get found.

We also have a lot of [Barrier Management Symposium educational material](#) already on [FCIA.org](#). Watch for even more in the near future.

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FCIA COMMITTEES MEET

The FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference is typically the first opportunity for [FCIA Committee](#) members to come together face-to-face and work on Committee initiatives and develop plans for current and future Committee work. The Committee round table meetings also welcome non-Committee members to sit in on the meetings to learn about the various FCIA Committees, their initiatives and responsibilities, and hopefully to generate an interest in joining the Committee that best suits their talents and interests.

With the ECA '20 Conference cancelled, FCIA's leadership decided to hold Virtual Committee Meetings. Using videoconferencing, 12 FCIA Committee Meetings were scheduled over a period of three weeks and saw participation from FCIA Committee members and guests.

The [FCIA Program Committee](#) started to discuss Conference locations for 2021 and 2022 and began tossing around ideas for future Conference session topics.

The [Technical/Education Committee](#) reviewed FCIA's

current menu of educational offerings and discussed some new FCIA programming coming out very soon.

[FCIA's Code Committee](#) planned code development work for the 2024 IBC, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1.

The [Marketing Committee](#) reviewed future trade shows, speaking opportunities, webinars and more.

[FCIA's Canada Committee](#) spent time discussing FCIA's code proposals at the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) where we are trying to add inspection in accordance with ASTM E 2174 and ASTM E 2393 to the NBC – and much more.

[FCIA's Membership Committee](#) continued discussions about the importance of growing FCIA's membership this year and beyond.

The [International Task Group](#), [Life Safety Digest](#) and [Apprenticeship](#) Committees are all scheduled to meet this week. Watch for actions in the next several months as a result these meetings.

WEBINARS, WEBINARS, AND MORE WEBINARS



With stay-home orders and social distancing requirements in place for much of the world, virtual education offerings have begun to pop-up from a number of sources.

FCIA has been providing online education consistently with the [FCIA Educational Webinar Series](#) since 2014. The monthly programs continue to grow in registration and attendance numbers and have highlighted

many great speakers and topics. All [FCIA Webinars](#) provide attendees with CEU credits.

FCIA webinars hosted this year boast the highest-ever attendance numbers for FCIA online education sessions and have provided hundreds with necessary contact education hours since March. These virtual education sessions will continue to provide learning opportunities and exceptional technical content.

We applaud FCIA's Manufacturer, Distributor, and other partners for scheduling and conducting webinars for remote learning opportunities. Many of these sessions have been very well received and are providing a great resource for remote education.

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FCIA WEBINAR QUESTION, CLARIFICATION

During the recent 'Firestop and UL: The UL-ULC Qualified Firestop Contractor Program, the MACC Program, and Firestop Special Inspection' webinar with Ruben Sandoval, Jr. (UL), a question about the Canada listings came up, specifically the XHEZ7. While the question was addressed during the session, a recent response from UL's Matt Schumann provides a more detailed response than was covered during the webinar.

"UL currently maintains three categories for firestopping systems; XHEZ for systems tested against UL 1479, XHEZ7 for systems tested against CAN/ULC-S115 and XHEZC for systems tested against CAN/ULC-S115 as well.

"The XHEZ7 ties to Canadian listings promulgated by UL for the Canadian Market (cUL Certification Mark) while the XHEZC is the continuation of the original ULC Fire Resistance Directory (ULC Certification Mark) for firestopping products. The XHEZC category is more comprehensive as it contains service penetrations, joint systems, head of wall, and perimeter fire containment due to the ULC directory not segregating these products like what has occurred in the ULI directory.

"The XHEZ7 category is the direct mirror of the XHEZ category and only relates to fire stopping options. We at UL have worked to make sure that the system naming conventions are uniform between the two categories, XHEZ7 and XHEZC as UL has actively tried to manage these categories over the past decade or so.

"There has also been much effort to ensure that the system numbers line up to avoid duplication where the system number in XHEZ/XHEZ7 points to one manufacturer while the XHEZC points to someone else or vice-versa. Even so, there are still some unique systems which do not appear in each category so it is vitally important that people use the UL Product iQ tool to check the system and confirm the product use or manufacturer.

"I think the XHEZ7 is more popular as is the equivalent XHBN7 category for joint systems now with our clients who manufacture the various products and materials - but the ULC systems are still active so they cannot be ignored."

**** FCIA Members, make sure to check out the [FCIA.org](https://www.fcia.org), including your company listing. If there are updates required, [contact FCIA staff](mailto:staff@fcia.org) with your requested changes. ****



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EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES '20 

'COVID-19: Information for Contractors'
with Philip J. Siegel (HPSS), Scott Calhoun
(HPSS), and Stephen Phillips (HPSS)

Wednesday, May 27
10:00 am CDT

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



FCIA Welcomes New Members

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 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

- Imperial Specialty Contracting - Anaheim, CA

FCIA New Associate Members

- Mappa Inc. - North Pole, AK

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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