THE FIRESTOP

Volume 24, Issue 5

FCIA & THE ICC CODE HEARINGS

"Fire-Resistance is part of Fire Safety. Fire-Resistance has NOT been eliminated."

Earlier this year, FCIA's Bill McHugh, along with FCIA Consultants Rich Walke and Bill Koffel, participated in the 2024 Cycle B Code Development in Rochester, NY. The group worked to keep fire-resistance front and center in an administrative proposal comment made during the hearings.

One of the testifiers stated, "Fire-Resistance has been eliminated".

FCIA's Bill McHugh replied, "I appreciate my colleague's passion, and change to Fire Safety. However, Fire-Resistance is part of Fire Safety, and the 104.11 section of the IBC points to Chapter 7 for comparisons of alternative methods. That's what he meant. Fire-Resistance has NOT been eliminated."

Glad we were there to defend our important discipline.

Want a full report? FCIA Members can check out FCIA's Code Presentation at FCIA.org in Members Only.

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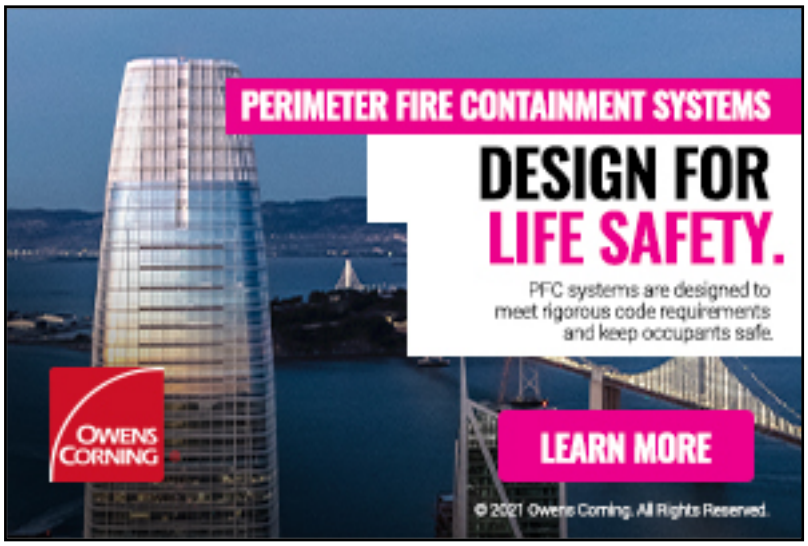


YEE HAW! ECA '22 IN NASHVILLE

The hybrid Conference and Committee meetings had robust attendance and member participation from those who could not be live in Nashville.

When in Nashville, Firestopping is music to attendees' ears!

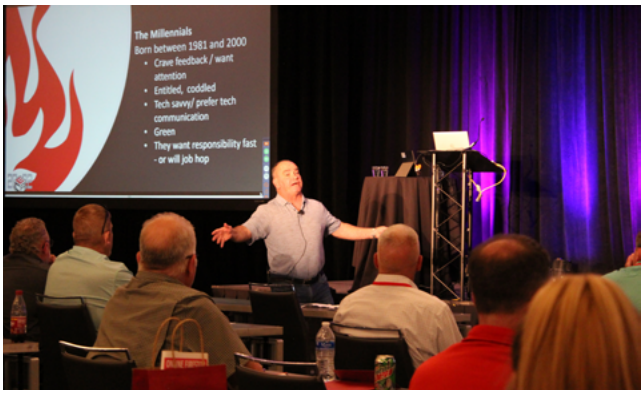
FCIA Board President, Jerry Dugan, Jr., addresses ECA '22 attendees. FCIA Photo

FCIA President, Jerry Dugan, kicked things off with a true cowboy welcome – 10-gallon hat and all, which set the tone for the entire week's experience.

Many thanks to the entirety of our faculty for their informative sessions, including:

- Shay Rankhorn, current ASHE President,
- Dwane Garris, former ICC President & former Georgia State Fire Marshal,
- TN Fire Marshal's Wayne Morris,
- Dennis Hall, FAIA, FCSI, Hall | AEC,
- Leanne Prybylski, Esq. of Hendrick, Phillips, Salzman and Siegel,
- Kevin Dougherty 'IN ACTION',
- And many more

ECA '22 attendees listen during one of many informative sessions during the week. FCIA Photo



Kevn Dougherty presents on how to manage across different generations. FCIA Photo

All volunteered their time and expertise to share knowledge about how we can further spread the word and protect people from fire with effective compartmentation and firestopping.

The HYBRID Conference & Committee Meetings and FCIA Education for UL and FM Firestop Exams had 200+ participants. Hybrid Committee meetings had robust attendance complete with member participation from those who could not be live in Nashville.

All in all, it was a great week, filled with education, the FM and UL Firestop Exams, and relationship building.

THE ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The International Code Council's Group B Committee Action Hearings (CAH) recently took place in Rochester, NY, and FCIA was there.

The International Code Council's Group B "Committee Action Hearings" (CAH), covering the International Existing Buildings Code (IEBC), International Residential Code (IRC) and Structural and Administrative proposals for the International Building Code (IBC) took place Sunday March 28 – Tuesday April 5 in Rochester NY. FCIA's Bill McHugh was joined with Consultants to FCIA Rich Walke, Bill Koffel, and Doug Evans, and many other interested parties for an active week of Code discussions.

Below are key concepts debated at the CAH, affecting fire-resistance protection of life safety in buildings.

- Performance Based Structural Fire Design – This proposal S134-22 was voted for DISAPPROVAL. Testimony stated there were not enough qualified engineers able to evaluate the designs, that there are other options for performance-based fire design other than ASCE 7-16's. This is the second such proposal to be DISAPPROVED during this 2021 – 2023 code development cycle. There was discussion about using PBSFD for compartmentation purposes, which made no sense and was one of the reasons why FCIA opposed the proposal.

- Occupiable Roofs & Protection –If an occupiable roof is added, and the occupiable roof is now 75' or more above lowest fire-department access, it triggers the high-rise code requirements. This means egress, alarm and standpipe requirements, in addition to fire-resistance rated assemblies and firestopping to protect people on the roof from fire below. This was APPPROVED at the ICC Committee Action Hearings, but still has to go through the Public Comment Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote this fall. Some might challenge the addition in Existing Buildings that the occupiable rooftop be limited to 50 occupants, before the high rise provisions are invoked.

EXPERTS TALK ARCHAIC ASSEMBLIES

At FCIA's Education and Committee Action Conference May 19, a firestop industry panel covered fire-resistance-ratings of wall assemblies and their interaction with firestopping.

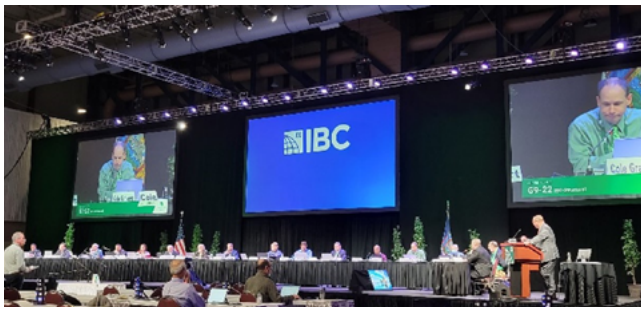
Ed Goldhammer (HILTI) provided a summary of the International Existing Building Code and a primer on tall wood buildings using mass timber assemblies. Next up was Jim Stahl Jr. (STI), who provided a listing summary, and then Paul Fannin (3M) offered perspectives about firestopping and these assemblies.

"New" resources on Clay Tile Block and Gypsum Block were discussed too. That's right! There's a newly found 1922 document, "Handbook of Hollow Building Tile Construction", which describes the material and design of clay tile block. Then, we found a 1940's book on Gypsum Block from USG. And, the International Existing Building Code has documentation on calculated methods of fire-resistance too.

FCIA Members, check out the presentation in the Members Only Section at www.FCIA.org to get to the new resources.

(L to R) Ed Goldhammer (HILTI), Bill McHugh (FCIA), Jim Stahl, Jr. (STI), and Paul Fannin (3M) particpate in a panel on firestopping, archaic assemblies, and NEW mass timber assemblies. Melissa Fiore Photo

THE ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS *continued*



ICC Committee Action Hearings in Rochester, NY. FCIA Photo

- Resilience – Bill Koffel, Koffel Associates, submitted proposal ADM53-22, on behalf of Fire Safe North America to add the term "resilience", to Section 101.3, Purpose. Fire Safe North America members include manufacturers Specified Technologies Inc., 3M Fire Protection Products, Hilti, Rockwool, Thermafiber/Owens Corning, the National Redi Mix Concrete Assn., The Air Movement and Control Association, and others. After a lot of debate, the proposal was DISAPPROVED. Comments included that the term is good, but needs to have technical requirements associated with it to be part of the code; that it will add confusion to the code, and resilience goes beyond building specific issues. Supporters stated that the easiest thing to repair, is that which is not destroyed.

- Administrative ADM13-22 – This proposal was a rewrite of Section 104.11 of ALL the I-Codes. Driven by Jeff Shapiro, a Consultant from Austin TX, representing the Lake Travis Fire Dept., the proposal had much discussion. The proposal, about 5 pages long, rearranged many things, including the list of properties from which equivalencies are based in the IBC Administrative Section 104.11.

  There were about 30 modifications originally submitted to the already long 5 page proposal. After significant changes, discussion with modification proponents, the proposal was APPROVED AS MODIFIED. This proposal is likely to get more public comments, meaning it still has a long way to go.

Check out the next issue of *Life Safety Digest* for details on the committee hearings, and look for another report after the Public Comment Hearings in October.

STI Specified Technologies Inc.
stifirestop.com

NFPA 1, 101, & 5000

There did not seem to be any significant changes related to fire-resistance or smoke-resistive building elements and assemblies in NFPA 1, The Fire Code, NFPA 101, The Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000, Building Construction and Safety Code.

Of note is that NFPA 1 has a similar visual inspection required for High Rise Buildings, but frequency is has reduced from every 5 years to every 3 years. The change was a FCIA initiative with Bill Koffel, Koffel Associates representing FCIA. Check out the December 2021 issue of *Life Safety Digest* for a great article on maintaining fire-resistance protection in existing buildings.

NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA

The NBCC 2020 has been published and is available online. The 2025 NBCC Code Development Process is also underway. The Executive Committee met recently, and discussions continue. We also understand that provincial adoptions seem to be not changing the national requirements as much as in years past. More on this trend, and the code development process, as we learn it.

ASTM STANDARDS & FIRESTOPPING

The ASTM Standards development process attracts and retains technical experts from around the world to continuously enhance the technical quality of Standards and related content.

FCIA had a productive session at ASTM earlier this year. Representing FCIA at the Seattle, WA meetings this April were FCIA's Bill McHugh and Standards Chair, Jay McGuire.

WORK ITEM – Labeling – FCIA Standards Chair, Jay McGuire, covered a lot of ground in the new firestop labeling standard – a process that brings credibility to the markings.

ASTM E3157 – Firestop Installation Guide – While this is a Standard, FCIA still recommends that Contractors get specific installation instructions from the Manufacturer. When installation instructions are vague, ask for clarifications.

ASTM E3037 – Movement – This Standard is the result of FCIA's 2008 Board requesting that penetrations have some movement capabilities to accommodate water hammer and temperature fluctuations. As a result, this relatively new Standard is starting to get some attention. Hilti's Ed Goldhammer is Chair of this Task Group.

ASTM E2785 – Exposure – STI's Tim Mattox presented actions on this Standard. While a good Standard, contact Manufacturers for specific exposure limitations of products in the field.

ASTM E3038 – Inspector Qualifications – This newer ASTM Standard attempts to add specific actions that a firestop, fire-resistive joint Inspector has to achieve:

Achieve at least one of the following:

- Two years firestopping, fire-resistive joint inspection experience, under direction of an inspector;
- Two years firestop industry quality control;
- Have a minimum of 4 years full time experience in selection, installation, of firestop systems, fire-resistive joint systems;
- Hold a license as a Registered Design Professional.

There are additional requirements, where BOTH of the points below are needed:

- Score a minimum 80% on an exam on firestop industry and inspections;
- One of two options
  - Attend at least two hours of educational training seminars directly related to firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems by at least 4 different organizations:
    - Manufacturers
    - Trade Associations
    - Combination of both
  - Attend a 6-hour education program acceptable to AHJ, AA, or both on firestopping and fire-resistive joints

In addition, the Inspector is supposed to submit documentation that the person has no conflicts to inspect firestopping and fire-resistive joint systems. The Standard seems to be moving in the right direction.

That said, there is still one item that needs to be addressed. The E3038 currently states the candidate is the company or the Inspection Agency. This is confusing since the candidate taking the exam is an individual who needs to be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

The way the E3038 standard is currently worded, one person takes an exam, and the whole company is now approved to inspect firestopping and fire-resistive joints without proving their individual competence, which is an unacceptable flaw to the Standard at this point. We know that things are being done at ASTM to fix this issue, and we look forward to its resolution.

CONCRETE BLOCK FIRE-RESISTANCE CALCULATOR

The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) offers a spreadsheet-based calculator tool free on their website.

In addition to the UL Product iQ database of listed fire-resistance-rated assemblies, the National concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) offers a Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) Fire Resistance Calculator download for free. This is a spreadsheet-based calculator tool that determines the fire-resistance-rating of concrete masonry wall assemblies.

The tool can be used to determine the fire-resistance-rating of a wide variety of CMU walls, including those with finishes on one or both sides. Multi-wythe assemblies can also be evaluated. Calculations are based on the requirements in ACI/TMS 216.1, *Code Requirements for Determining Fire Resistance of Concrete and Masonry Construction Assemblies.*

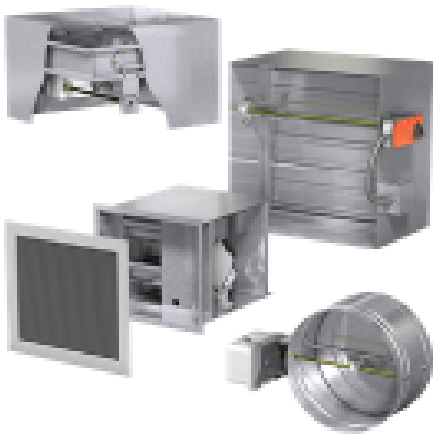
DAMPER NOTES

Fire, Fire/Smoke, Smoke, and Ceiling Radiation Damper installation requirements in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions? Yep. Every time.

Did you know that fire-damper, combination fire-smoke damper, smoke damper, and ceiling radiation dampers are required to be installed in accordance with the listings and manufacturers' installation instructions?

Installation in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions...that's a common theme for ICC's International Building Code, NFPA 101 The Life Safety Code, and NFPA 5000, Building Construction and Safety Code. Plus, the National Building Code of Canada highlights it too. References to UL555 and UL555S, and CAN/ULC-S112, are for the listings.

According to the product manufacturers, installation instructions are included in every fire-damper, combination fire-smoke damper, smoke damper, and ceiling radiation damper shipping container. Check those crates before you start installing these systems!



Combination Fire/Smoke Dampers. Greenheck Photo

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

- Echelon Firestop - Lodi, CA
- Manco-Smith Builders, LLC - Ramsey, NJ
- Alert Insulation of California - LaPuente, CA

FCIA New Contractor Branch Members

- DPR Construction NE - Waltham, MA

FCIA New International Contractor Members

- Athab Qatar Engineering & Contracting Co., WLL - Doha, Qatar
- E.M.C.C. Co., LLC - Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Multi Tech Trading & Contracting Co. - Doha, Qatar
- UNI International for Trading & Contracting WLL - Doha, Qatar

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.

Upcoming Events

June 19-21	FCIA Fire Code and Fire & Smoke Barrier 'DIIM' Symposium Doha
June 22-23	FCIA Fire Code Firestop & Effective Compartmentation Membership Meeting Dubai
June 22-24	AIA Conference
June 26-28	BOMA Conference & Expo
June 29	FCIA Webinar
July 4	Independence Day - FCIA Office Closed
July 17-29	ASHE Conference
July 27	FCIA Webinar

EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR SERIES '22

'Protecting Recessed Boxes in Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction'

Wednesday, June 29
10:00 am - 11:00 am CDT

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