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**NFCA PLATINUM  
MANUFACTURER  
MEMBER**



## BLAZING TRAIL: NFCA'S HOT START TO 2026

NFCA and FCIA collectively kickstarted 2026 with a hot beginning as the associations joined forces and converged in Dubai for PFP CON. This symposium was dedicated to advancing the passive fire safety.

Leading the charge were NFCA and FCIA's Executive Director Lindsey Dutkiewicz, Director of International Initiatives Abhishek Chhabra, and the newly appointed Technical Director Gabby Peck, who travelled to the Middle East's epicentre to deliver this busy event in January.

The event took place alongside the expansive INTERSEC conference & expo—an event widely recognized as the region's premier showcase for security, safety, and fire protection technologies. PFP CON shined as a specialized platform tailored to passive fire systems with a core focus on structural fireproofing.

The symposium's success was evident in its fantastic attendance, attracting a global mixture of professionals: from the Dubai Civil Defence, contractors and Municipal Department Fire Marshals, to architects, manufacturers and engineers shaping resilient infrastructures.

Discussions focused on navigating regulatory compliance—such as aligning with international standards like those from the International Building Code (IBC) or local UAE mandates—and streamlining certification processes for materials and installations.

A particular spotlight was cast on structural fire protection challenges, including fireproofing of hospitals, data centres and high-rise buildings.

The event fostered cross-cultural dialogue among experts from multiple nations, sparking conversations around common pain points and also served as a fantastic base for networking among contractors and manufacturers.

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW ON FIREPROOFING



Executive Director Lindsey Dutkiewicz also got to experience some of Dubai's wildlife!



## NFCA AT INTERSEC

Intersec Dubai stands as a premier global showcase for fire safety and protection innovations. It draws over 50,000 visitors from around the world—including industry leaders, regulators, emergency responders, and cutting-edge innovators—creating a powerhouse hub for advancing fireproofing technologies and passive fire protection solutions.

In a city like Dubai, where steel-intensive high-rise construction drives massive demand (with the UAE capturing nearly 24% of the Middle East steel market share), nothing beats the spotlight for highlighting the critical need to safeguard structural steel from fire!

NFCA and FCIA co-hosted a booth in one of the many busy Intersec halls. Our team enthusiastically shared the associations' expertise and offerings, educated newcomers on the lifesaving power of fireproofing and passive fire protection, and championed the DIIM message—ensuring proper design, installation, inspection, and maintenance for lasting safety in buildings everywhere!



## PFPCON '26 IS (ALMOST) HERE!

A message from our Executive Director, Lindsey Dutkiewicz:



When the Passive Fire Protection industry speaks with clarity, consistency, and collaboration, we move closer to our ultimate goal: safe, resilient buildings for all.

PFPCON '26, the Passive Fire Protection Conference & Trade Show, is more than just an exciting new initiative from FCIA and NFCA — it is a defining moment for our industry.

PFPCON represents a major step forward for Passive Fire Protection. With this event, we are creating a truly global platform for the entire Passive Fire Protection community to come together to educate, advocate, and collaborate in advancing safer buildings worldwide.

Fire behaves the same regardless of country, city, province, or jurisdiction. Building occupants everywhere deserve the same level of protection from fire and smoke. That shared responsibility transcends borders, and so must our commitment to excellence.

By bringing together the structural fire-resistance and effective compartmentation communities, and by engaging all stakeholders involved in the design, specification, installation, inspection, and maintenance of fire protection systems, PFPCON is building a unified global voice.

## PFPCON '26 IS (ALMOST) HERE!

We are fostering a culture of idea-sharing, innovation, partnership, and accountability that strengthens the entire fire protection ecosystem.

True fire and life safety requires a holistic approach. It demands both Passive AND Active Fire Protection working in harmony. When the Passive Fire Protection industry speaks with clarity, consistency, and collaboration, we move closer to our ultimate goal: safe, resilient buildings for all.

PFPCON '26 is where that global conversation begins.

I encourage professionals from every corner of our industry — manufacturers, contractors, inspectors, designers, code officials, and building owners — to register, attend, and be part of shaping the future of Passive Fire Protection. Together, we can elevate standards, strengthen partnerships, and make a lasting impact on life safety worldwide.

Here's everything you need to know:

### WHO?

Everyone! Whether you are a manufacturer, contractor, inspector, designer, code official, or building owner - PFPCON is for everyone in the Passive Fire Protection industry.

**You do NOT have to be an NFCA Member to register!**

\*NFCA Contractor Members get a FREE attendee with their membership.

### WHAT?

- Learn code requirements, standards, and best practices from leading PFP experts.
- Experience workshops, panels, exams, and live demos that bring PFP systems to life.
- Join Committee Action Sessions to advance Association initiatives and influence industry progress.
- Connect with peers, providers, and authorities sharing fire and life safety goals.
- Gain actionable insights you can apply on every project.

### WHERE?

THE ARIA RESORT  
LAS VEGAS, NV



### WHEN?

MARCH 30 - APRIL 4

Visit our [Event Page](#) to learn more and register!



## CODES & STANDARDS

The standard development process for firestopping and passive fire protection typically begins with industry experts identifying or proposing needs, like needed improvements to inspection protocols for firestopping as an example. The proposals are drafted by committees, reviewed collaboratively, and if needed, tested empirically. Once refined, they undergo voting and sometimes public input before approval and publication.

## ASTM E06 COMMITTEE TO MEET IN MARCH '26

The ASTM E06 Performance of Buildings committee is scheduled to meet in person March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss a manner of changes and work surrounding specific standard updates. Updates coming soon!

## ICC CODE PROPOSALS FROM NFCA

A quick summary of the code proposals awaiting decision at the ICC Public comments hearing in April '26:

**FS2-24 (IBC 703.2.1.3 – Restrained vs. Unrestrained Classification):** ACI, PCI & NRMCA proposed an exception automatically classifying concrete girders, beams, and slabs connected per ACI 318 as "restrained".

NFCA submitted a public comment strongly opposing the automatic default; it requests reverting to the prior/code-default "unrestrained" position unless the Registered Design Professional explicitly evaluates it per both ACI 318 and ASTM E119/UL 263 and obtains code-official approval. NFCA argued that the restrained default is less conservative, bypasses full ASTM Appendix caveats/footnotes on thermal expansion under fire conditions, shifts decision-making to one industry, and risks fire safety.

**FS10-24 (IBC 704.5.1 – Secondary Attachments to Structural Steel):** NFCA proposal to require protection of secondary steel attachments with same material/thickness, extending  $\geq 18$  in. from the member (or full length if shorter); this includes hollow members.

Originally disapproved but NFCA kept it alive via public comment to gather supporting data.

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**G66-25 (IBC 406 – Parking Garages):** Proposes 4-hour (then reduced to 3) fire-resistance rating for open/enclosed parking garage floor assemblies and separations to other occupancies/shafts, due to increased fire load risks from modern vehicles (plastics, lithium-ion/hybrid/EV battery fires).

### Special Inspections Updates (S2-24, S4-24, S5-24):

**S2-24 (SFRM):** Aligns/revises 1705.15 with new draft ASTM WK70851 (on-site inspection practice); cleans up language, removes duplications with ASTM E605/E736 & retains stricter code criteria.

**S4-24 (New 1705.17):** New section for board/wrap fire-resistive materials per draft ASTM WK70807.

**S5-24 (1705.16) – Intumescent):** Updates to reference draft ASTM WK70852 (replacing or alongside AWCI 12-B).

## ICC PUBLIC COMMENTS HEARING APRIL '26

The ICC's triennial code cycle starts with proposal submissions, advances through committee action hearings, public comments, and final voting. The current cycle is soon to be at the Public comments process.

Public comments have been submitted, meeting the deadline of early January, and will be heard alongside the final voting in April, and results from the hearing expected in May or June 2026.

## CODES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE: HAVE YOUR SAY!

At NFCA, our code advocacy and standard developments are driven by you! Want to make changes, support code initiatives and proposals? Join the committee. This is where the action happens. The code proposals that NFCA puts forward for the ICC originate from our members. This is also a fantastic place to discuss standards and keep directly involved in what is happening in the standards world!

*Thank You*

**NFCA GOLD MANUFACTURER MEMBERS**



## A NEW ERA: THE TRANSITION OF BILL MCHUGH

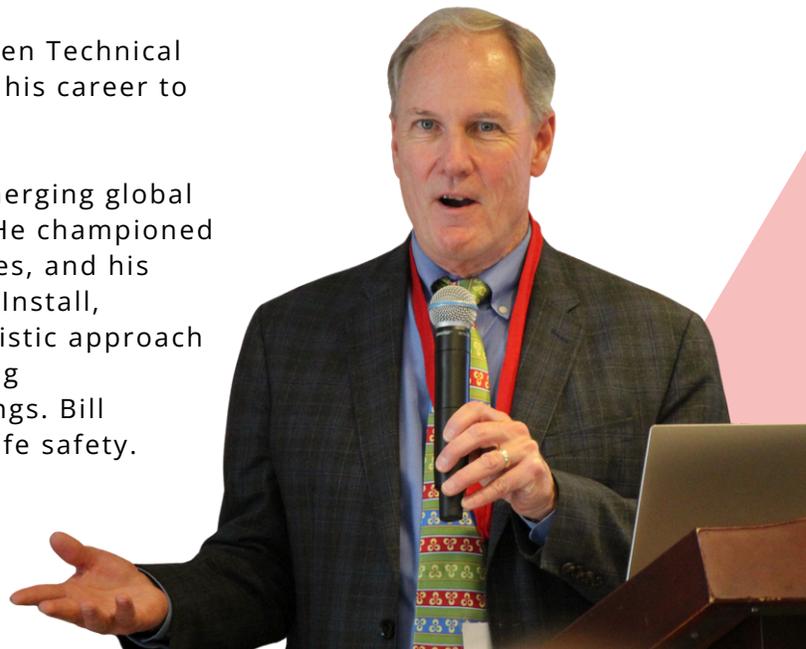
Bill McHugh served as the Executive Director, then Technical Director of the NFCA, and dedicated 28 years of his career to the passive fire industry.

Under Bill's leadership, NFCA has grown into emerging global authority on structural passive fire protection. He championed the adoption of rigorous standards, code changes, and his early advocacy helped integrate "DIIM" (Design, Install, Inspect, Maintain) as a core philosophy; this holistic approach goes beyond mere installation to include ongoing maintenance, reducing long-term risks in buildings. Bill McHugh's career was one dedicated to fire and life safety.

As Bill transitions into retirement, handing the reins to a new generation of leaders, his legacy endures in every certified installation and every life saved through better fire safety.

Bill, from all of us at NFCA: thank you for your unwavering commitment and for everything you have done for this industry.

We wish you a well-deserved rest, filled with family, travel, and time well spent sailing with the grandkids with a nice glass of wine!



# FEATURED MEMBERS

We're excited to launch this new section as a space to celebrate the achievements and news from our NFCA members!

Whether it's a milestone in your career, a contribution to industry standards, or an inspiring project outcome or challenges, share your stories with us. This isn't about promotion—it's about recognizing the hard work that advances passive fire protection for everyone and celebrating our community.

Got news like a recent certification, a committee breakthrough, or a lesson from the field? Submit to [info@nfca.org](mailto:info@nfca.org), or [gabbyp@nfca-online.org](mailto:gabbyp@nfca-online.org) for consideration.

Let's inspire each other!!!

## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Please help up welcome our newest NFCA members:

### MTN INC



MTN INC is the leading national Women Business Enterprise (WBE) commercial waterproofing contractor specializing in below and above-grade waterproofing, Fireproofing, vapor intrusion mitigation, Expansion joint control, metal panels and concrete restoration serving clients across north America.

### Tigre Firestop & Insulation



Tigre Firestop & Insulation is a Bay Area-based subcontractor specializing in firestopping, fireproofing, and insulation. Their mission is to save lives by expertly installing advanced fire protection systems that keep projects on schedule and ensure first-time inspection approvals. Serving Northern California, Tigre is committed to quality, safety, and industry expertise.

### Skyline Southeast Corp.



Skyline Southeast Corp. specializes in spray-applied fireproofing, intumescent fireproofing, and sprayed-acoustical insulation solutions designed to meet building codes while delivering maximum safety and performance. Skyline Southeast is led by a team with decades of proven experience and is committed to serving our customers across the Southeastern United States.

### Marek Brothers Systems, LLC



Marek Brothers Systems, LLC specializes in commercial fireproofing, thermal & acoustical insulation and firestop services.

### Firi Fire Proofing & Paints



Firi Fire Proofing & Paints is a specialized contractor providing elite passive fire protection solutions for commercial & Industrial Structures. As an expert in both application of SFRM & IFRM , we ensure that every project meet stringent building codes & life safety requirements. Our team combines technical precision with high quality coatings to protect structural steel.

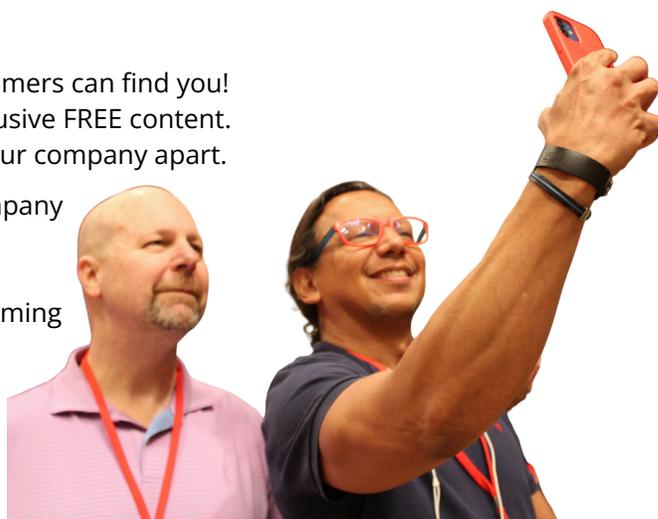
## BECOME AN NFCA MEMBER



There's no better time than right now to join the National Fireproofing Contractors Association community—gain immediate access to resources, industry expertise, and support that moves your business forward.

Here are a few benefits NFCA Members find valuable:

- NFCA's Annual Week of Learning – One free attendee
- Listing at NFCA-online.org's Member List – Where customers can find you!
- NFCA Website MEMBERS ONLY Section access, for exclusive FREE content.
- NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP) – Sets your company apart.
- UL Qualified SFRM Contractor Program -Gives your company more competitive advantages.
- NFCA's Handbook of Fireproofing Knowledge”, is the industry textbook provides a great study guide for becoming a DRI in NFCA's CAP and the UL SFRM Program.
- NFCA Webinars – Educates code officials, specifiers, inspectors and fireproofing contractors, who learn to approve fireproofing submittals, jobs.
- and MORE!



Submit an application to Carol Ann Lis at [carolannl@cmservices.com](mailto:carolannl@cmservices.com) or contact her for more information on the benefits of membership!



**WOMEN IN FIREPROOFING**

**NFCA**® National Fireproofing  
Contractors Association

Join the **NFCA Women in Fireproofing Committee** — a new committee dedicated to supporting and elevating women across the fireproofing industry.

Be part of the momentum and join us for our first official committee meeting during the Committee Action Session at PFPCon '26 in Las Vegas.

Want more details? Connect with our Co-Chairs:  
Leah Barker [leah@quikspray.com](mailto:leah@quikspray.com)  
Carol Schary [carols@nathankimmel.com](mailto:carols@nathankimmel.com)

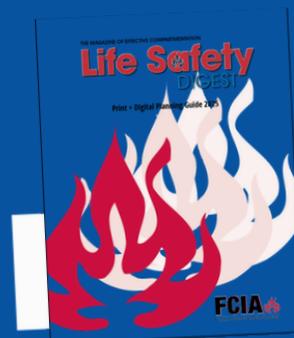
## PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST

*Life Safety Digest, the official publication of FCIA, is the industry's trusted source for firestopping, fireproofing, and fire-resistance-rated construction. Published quarterly, it reaches contractors, architects, engineers, code officials, and facility managers—the key decision-makers in the built environment. NFCA is proud to be featured, contributing expert insights on passive fire protection, including SFRM and IFRM systems.*

### Why Advertise?

- ◆ Targeted reach to engaged life-safety professionals
- ◆ Credible platform backed by FCIA leadership
- ◆ Multi-channel exposure—print, digital, and events
- ◆ Valuable context alongside trusted technical content

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# Thank You

## NFCA SILVER MANUFACTURER MEMBERS

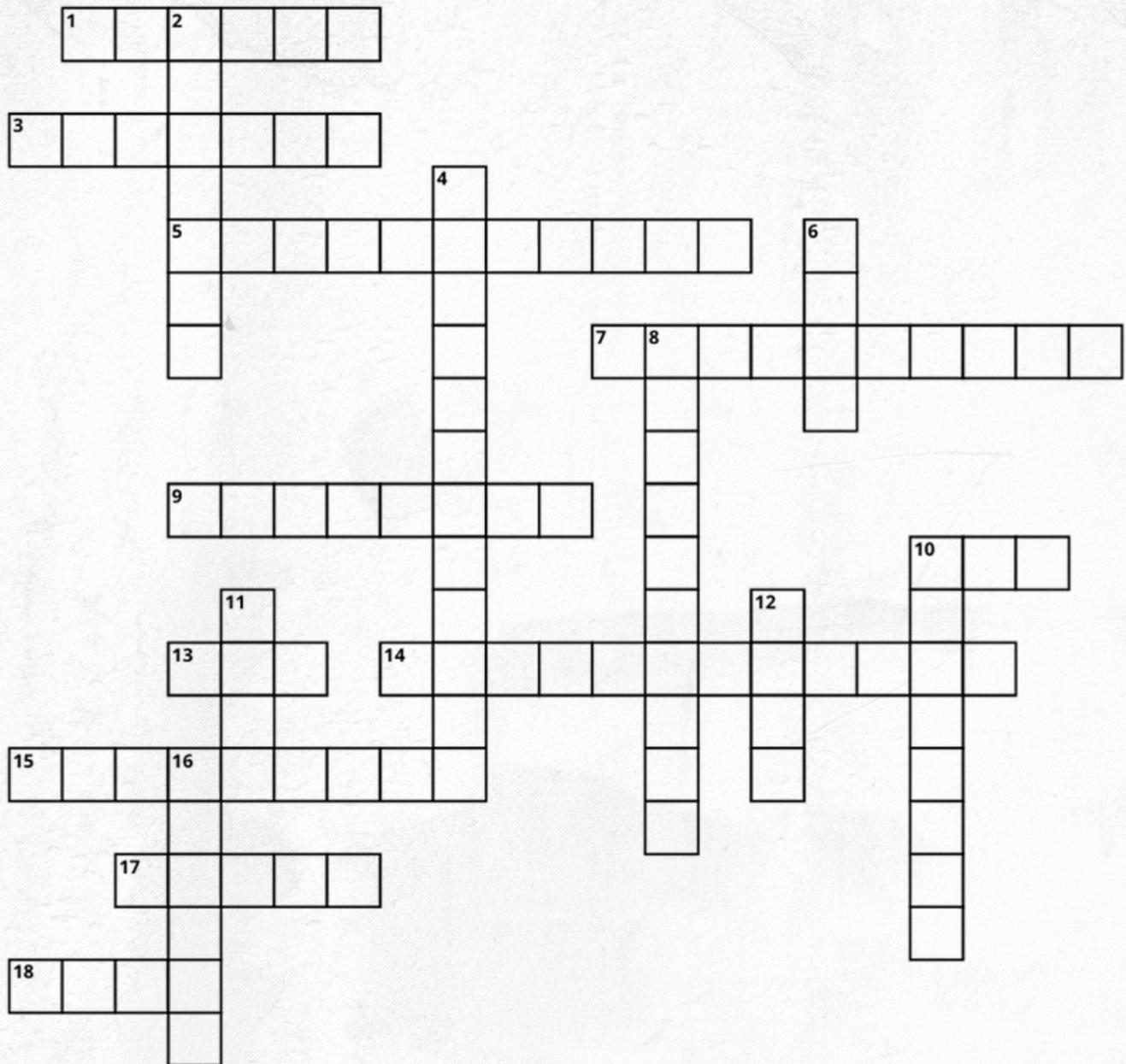


## NEW! HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF?

Test yourself with the NFCA fireproofing themed crossword or the TOP 5 questions!

### TOP 5 QUESTIONS

1. What lightweight aggregate is used in many SFRMs?
2. What type of fire protection uses rigid panels?
3. What process creates intumescent's protective foam?
4. What IBC chapter covers fire-resistance ratings?
5. What ASTM standard measures SFRM adhesion to substrate?

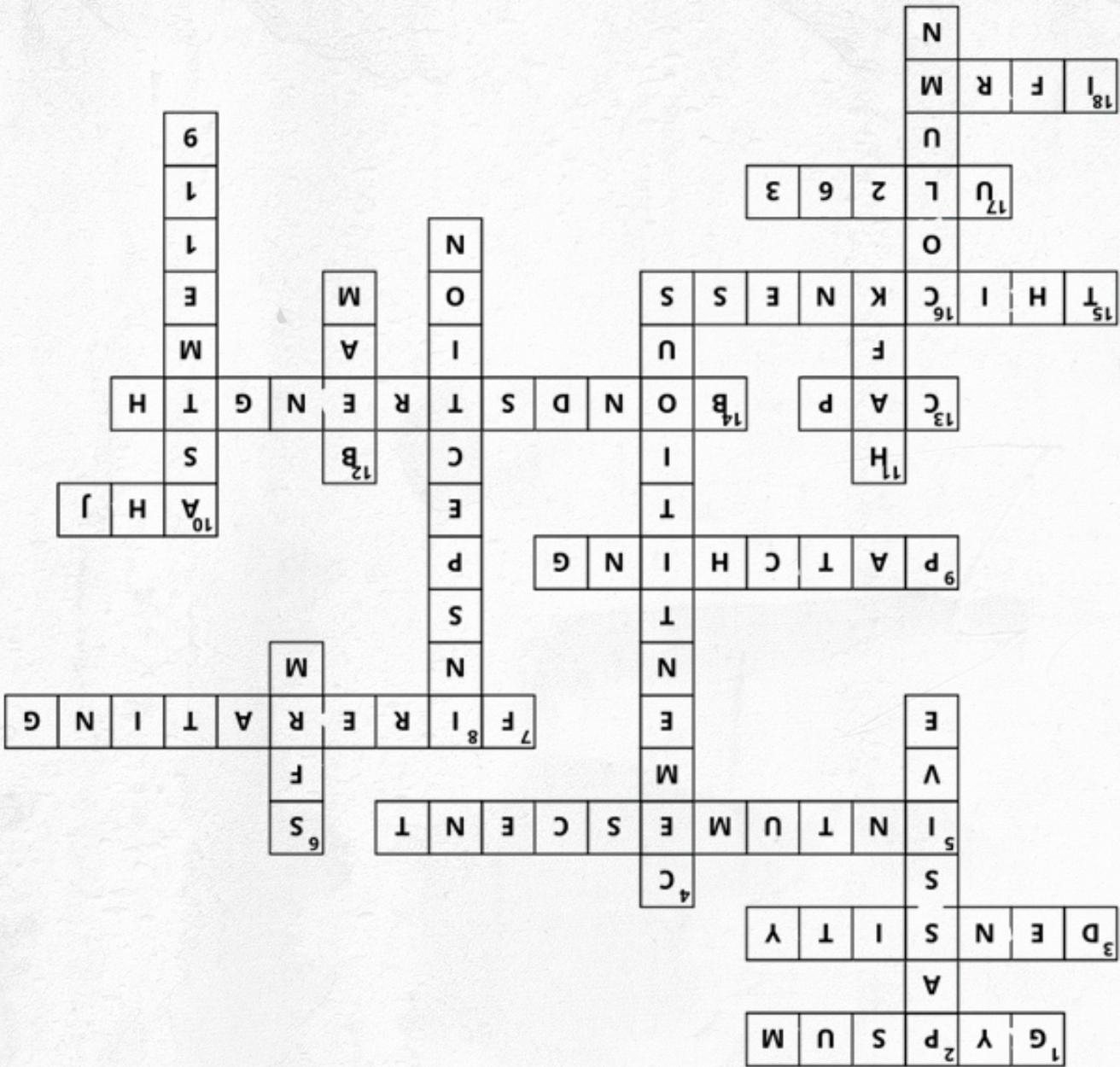


## Across

- [1] Board material often wrapped for passive protection
- [3] SFRM property measured in pounds per cubic foot
- [5] Fire-resistive material that swells to create a protective layer
- [7] Hourly measure of protection granted by proper fireproofing
- [9] Repair method for damaged fire-resistive layers
- [13] NFCA program proving contractor expertise in materials (abbr.)
- [14] Adhesion test ensuring fireproofing sticks under stress
- [15] Critical dimension verified by inspectors for ratings
- [17] UL Standard for fire endurance testing of assemblies
- [18] Expanding coating that chars to insulate during a fire (abbr.)

## Down

- [2] Fire protection strategy that contains without activation
- [4] Portland-based type of sprayed fireproofing
- [6] Sprayed-on protection against flames in steel structures (abbr.)
- [8] NFCA-advocated process for verifying compliance post-application
- [10] Benchmark test for measuring building material fire resistance
- [11] NFCA's book of industry wisdom and best practices (abbr.)
- [12] Horizontal steel element commonly protected from heat
- [16] Vertical support targeted for intumescent or sprayed coatings



**TOP 5 QUESTIONS: ANSWERS**

1- Vermiculite, 2- Boards, 3- Char formation, 4- Chapter 7,  
5- Incident, 6- Safety, 7- Fire, 8- Fire, 9- Participant,  
10- Safety, 11- Hazard, 12- Safety, 13- Safety, 14- Board,  
15- Thick, 16- Thick, 17- Lull, 18- Fire

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY  
STARTS HERE



CONFERENCE  
& EXPO

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