



National Fireproofing  
Contractors Association

# ENEWS

LETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page

NFCA 2025 Week of Learning - A Huge Success Great Education Sessions for NFCA Fireproofing Exams NEW NFCA Committee Meeting Format Blockbuster Speakers NEW Award of Excellence Format	2
Tradeshow season kicked off at AGC 2025 NFCA is Leading the Charge for Passive Fire Protection NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP) Why get CAP Accredited? NFCA in the Press	3
NFCA @ ICC & NFPA Code Development Process	4
NFCA @ ICC & NFPA Code Development Process (Continued)....	5
NFCA International Efforts Calling out our NEW NFCA 2025 Members	6

*Thank you*  
NFCA **GOLD**  
MANUFACTURER MEMBER



# NFCA 2025 Week of Learning – A Huge Success!

NFCA's 2025 Week of Learning in Broomfield, CO is officially in the books—and what an incredible event it was! From dynamic sessions to invaluable networking and unforgettable experiences, this year's conference delivered on every level. Thanks to everyone who made it such a standout week!

## Great Education Sessions for NFCA Fireproofing Exams

A big thank-you to John Dalton of Monokote Fireproofing, Dan Eehalt of Isolatek, and Greg Becker of Hilti for presenting alongside NFCA Consultant Rich Walke and Technical Director Bill McHugh. Missed the session? Don't worry, a remote version is planned for early fall 2025. Stay tuned at [www.NFCA-online.org](http://www.NFCA-online.org) for updates!

## NEW NFCA Committee Meeting Format

The NFCA's Program Committee implemented a new meeting format in which each committee convened in its own dedicated room. This approach proved to be highly effective and also encouraged participation from new committee members.

## Blockbuster Speakers

From attorney Philip Siegel, Hendrick Phillips Salzman & Siegel and safety attorney Patrick Miller, Taft Law to AGC's chief economist Ken Simonson, new embodied carbon reduction using fireproofing from Galen Burrell, Saint-Gobain and others, this year's speaker lineup received outstanding reviews across the board.

## NEW Award of Excellence Format

This year, the NFCA's Awards Committee, in collaboration with Association Manager Lissette Keslinke, introduced a new format for the Award of Excellence. For the first time, NFCA members were able to vote live at the conference, which generated tremendous enthusiasm and participation. Congratulations to Rolling Plains, Zack Painting, and Alpha Insulation for your outstanding submissions and well-deserved awards!



Don't miss 2026's NFCA Week of Learning, to be announced THIS Summer!



## Tradeshow season kicked off at AGC 2025

NFCA recently participated in the AGC Tradeshow, alongside the FCIA (Firestop Contractors International Association). The event provided a valuable opportunity for networking, sharing knowledge, and showcasing the importance of fireproofing and firestop solutions in the construction industry.

NFCA was proudly represented by Executive Director Lindsey Dutkiewicz, as well as members Ben Urcavich (Performance Firestop) and Josh Stackowiak (Superior Insulation), who were in attendance to engage with industry leaders and promote the association's initiatives. The team had insightful discussions on fire protection standards and best practices, further solidifying NFCA's commitment to advancing passive fire protection across the industry.

## NFCA is Leading the Charge for Passive Fire Protection

NFCA is dedicated to ensuring that passive fire protection receives the attention it deserves throughout every phase of the building life cycle—from new construction to existing buildings—so it can perform effectively when needed in a fire emergency.

*Thank you* NFCA SILVER  
MANUFACTURER MEMBERS



Is it time for your company to become NFCA Accredited? The NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP) offers invaluable education on fire-resistance concepts, fireproofing techniques, NFCA's 100-400 Standard practices, and content from the NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge. This program is designed to help you elevate your company's expertise and reputation in the fireproofing industry.

## Why get CAP Accredited?

Becoming accredited is a powerful way to distinguish your company from the competition. Use it as a selling point: "We're accredited—what about you?" It's not just about recognition—it's about investing in your team. The education provided through the CAP program equips your staff with critical knowledge that sets your company apart. The first step to UL Qualified SFRM Contractor Program status is taking the NFCA Fireproofing Education & Fireproofing Exam(s) for SFRM and/or IFRM and passing. This will designate you as a Designated Responsible Individual. Interested in the UL Qualified SFRM Contractor Program? You can learn more by scanning the barcode to access the UL info pages for the program.



For more information contact Mark.StOnge@UL.com

## NFCA in the press...

NFCA is again in Life Safety Digest with an article on full scale, loaded horizontal assembly and beam listings. [Check out the article!](#)

Want to write, advertise, or feature in Life Safety Digest? Click the button below for more information!

**CLICK HERE**

# NFCA @ ICC & NFPA Code Development Process

Navigating the code development arena requires strategic networking, clear communication, and active participation to ensure that codes are precise and free from ambiguity.

In our last Enews, we highlighted a Group A code proposal—International Building Code (IBC) change number FS-2-24—that was introduced during the ICC Code Development Process. This proposal originated from the American Concrete Institute (ACI), the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA).

FS-2-24 proposes a shift in the default fireproofing classification from a conservative stance to a less conservative one. Specifically, it allows buildings to be classified as "restrained" by default—without input from the design professional or approval from the Authority Having Jurisdiction—so long as the building is designed in accordance with ACI-318, Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete.

Under the current IBC, the default classification (restrained vs. unrestrained construction) must be determined by the design professional and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. This proposed change was presented during Committee Action Hearing #1 (CAH#1) of ICC's Code Development "Cycle A," which took place in April 2024 in Orlando, FL.

At October's Committee Action Hearing #2 (CAH #2) in Long Beach, CA, a comment was submitted in response to the FS2-24 proposal by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). The comment asserted that buildings constructed from both steel and concrete should be considered "restrained" by default if designed in accordance with AISC 360, Specification for Structural Steel Buildings.

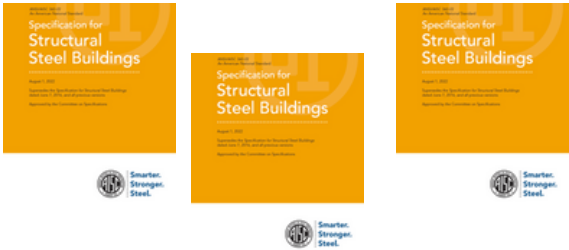
NFCA strongly objected to this assertion, advocating for the continued requirement of design professional and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) involvement in determining restrained vs. unrestrained classifications.

After a thorough debate, NFCA's position prevailed—and the proposal was ultimately defeated by a single vote.

At October's Committee Action Hearing #2 (CAH #2) in Long Beach, CA, a comment was submitted in response to the FS2-24 proposal by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). The comment asserted that buildings constructed from both steel and concrete should be considered "restrained" by default if designed in accordance with AISC 360, Specification for Structural Steel Buildings.

NFCA strongly objected to this assertion, advocating for the continued requirement of design professional and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) involvement in determining restrained vs. unrestrained classifications.

After a thorough debate, NFCA's position prevailed—and the proposal was ultimately defeated by a single vote.



The AISC Committee TC8 is responsible for Chapter 4 (Fire Resistance) of AISC 360, Specification for Structural Steel Buildings. While this chapter is developed through a consensus-based process, NFCA currently does not have voting rights on fire-resistance matters, as we participate only as a guest, not a formal committee member.

Since October 2024, NFCA Executive Director Bill McHugh and NFCA Consultant Rich Walke have actively participated in AISC TC8 meetings—both in person in Chicago and virtually—to stay engaged and advocate for fire-resistance integrity.

At the most recent meeting in January, AISC announced plans to submit a public comment to FS2-24, urging the ICC Governmental Membership to overturn the previous committee action (which requires only a 51% vote), and then vote to approve a new motion that would incorporate Chapter 4 of AISC 360 into the code. This change would effectively classify buildings as "restrained" by default when designed in accordance with AISC 360.

For this proposal to be approved, a two-thirds majority vote from ICC Governmental Members at the hearing will be required. The public comments on this issue will be heard in April 2026.



## What Does This Mean for NFCA Members?

NFCA continues to advocate for a conservative default position—that construction should be classified as unrestrained unless the design professional provides documentation, acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), verifying that the building qualifies as restrained, and the AHJ explicitly approves it.

**Why is this so important?** Because this is not just a technicality—it's a critical fire and life safety issue. Understanding how a structure performs under elevated temperatures is essential for ensuring occupant safety and the integrity of the built environment.

**Fireproofing Inspection** NFCA was successful making the IBC reflect that fireproofing inspection is continuous, with an additional inspection after rough installation of Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing, ceiling grid wire installation, before ceiling is installed. The code used to say only inspect after rough installation of MEP's, ceiling grid. This reflects now what actually happens in the field.



NFCA also made sure in proposal S3-24 (Approved), dealing with Chapter 17 of the 2027 IBC, the code will recognize that inspections are performed in accordance with approved construction documents, the approved listings and the manufacturers installation instructions. Installation temperature limitations, surface preparation, and other items are in the manufacturer's instructions. That was missing in previous codes.



**IFRM's** – NFCA was also the proponent to change the name of Intumescent Coatings, or Intumescent Mastics and Coatings, to 'Intumescent Fire-Resistive Materials' (IFRM), to match Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials. (SFRM) – and bring to the forefront that these materials are not paint, which can be 'cut' with water and installed thinner to save material. IFRM's are fireproofing – installed in accordance with thicknesses in a listing, and manufacturers installation instructions. There is no messing with IFRM thicknesses outside of tolerances allowed. That's what fireproofing is all about. Listings, manufacturers instructions.

## Fireproofing Inspection Standards

NFCA has been collaborating with GCP's Phil Mancuso on ASTM's SFRM and IFRM standards, as well as 3M's Samantha Peterson on Boards/Wrap, to develop the new ASTM Fireproofing Inspection Standards. We are down to just a few remaining objections, with three key issues to resolve. Phil and the ASTM E06 Task Group, responsible for these standards, met in Toronto from April 7-9, 2024. A reballot to address the remaining concerns is scheduled for this summer. Stay tuned for more updates in future Enews.

## Other ICC Proposals – Group B

In mid-April 2025, NFCA's Bill McHugh and Rich Walke will head back to Orlando, Florida to present several proposals under Group B of the ICC's code development cycle. These proposals focus on Table 601, the 20-foot rule, occupiable roofs, and increasing fire-resistance ratings for parking garages (below residential and other occupancies, as well as open/closed parking garages) from 2 hours to 4 hours. Why this change? Fuel loads in parking garages have significantly increased, necessitating stronger fire protection. We will provide a report on the hearings later this summer.

## With Respect

This winter, the fireproofing industry lost a cherished friend, Tom Talaga, a longtime fireproofing representative from GCP/Saint-Gobain's Monokote Fireproofing. Tom was a dedicated colleague, gentleman, and a leader within the fireproofing community—his influence was felt nationally. He shared his knowledge and family graciously with many, including myself. He will be deeply missed.

## NFCA in Qatar & UAE

In February, NFCA traveled to Doha, Qatar, and Dubai, UAE for two impactful symposiums focused on fire-resistance in buildings. The events were attended by key stakeholders, including Qatar's hospital building owners, Civil Defence (code officials), NFCA Members, and an insurance company. Attendance was excellent, and we connected with potential future NFCA Members. Additional meetings were held with Civil Defence and other stakeholders, marking the trip a great success.

## NFCA International Efforts

Over the past six months, NFCA has been expanding its international efforts to promote the Global Language of Passive Fire Protection—covering all aspects of passive fire protection. Some of the highlights include:

- CAHO, India: Workshop for Healthcare Facility Directors on fire safety.
- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat: Presentation in the UK on fire-resistance in tall buildings.
- Fire-Resistance DIIM International Webinars: Four sessions focused on the Middle East, India, and other regions.
- FCIA & NFCA Virtual Meetings: Several member-only sessions discussing fire-resistance and safety.
- Association of Hospitality Engineers: "The MasterMinds Meet" program on fire-resistance-rated assemblies, firestopping, fire doors, fire dampers, fire-rated glazing, and structural fire-resistance.
- Intersec, Dubai: NFCA's Abhishek Chhabra delivered a presentation on "The Global Language of Passive Fire Protection" to a large audience of code officials, fireproofing professionals, and general contractors.



- United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Fire Safety Forum for Innovation & Safety
- US, Canada & International Society of Fire Protection Engineers Webinar Presentation, on the Global Language of Passive Fire Protection.
- ConstructSaudi's Big5 Show
- Fire Protection Australia – Meetings with their staff.
- AMRACI FireExpo, Mexico – Discussions about education, and the exhibition.

## Calling out our NEW NFCA 2025 Members

Contractor Members

SAVI Industrial Inc.  
Shamrock Painting LLC DBA Bell SPI  
Remdal Painting & Restoration Inc  
Rochester Davis Fetch Group  
Specialty Spray Systems Technologies  
Acoustical Spray Insulators

Contractor Interim Members

Turnkey Exteriors

Contractor Branch Members

Performance Contractors Inc - Tampa

