



National Fireproofing
Contractors Association

ENEWS

LETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

NEW @ ASTM
FIREPROOFING - 1990 TO 2000 TO 2025

2

NFCA @ ICC CODE DEVELOPEMENT
PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST

3

NFCA CONTRACTOR ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
CLEARSTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON COSTLY CHANGE ORDER
CHALLENGES

4

NFCA INTERNATIONAL WORK
PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST
EXCITING FCIA EVENTS

5

NFCA PARTNERS
NEW THINGS ON THE HORIZON
NEW MEMBER WELCOME

6

Thank you

NFCA **GOLD**

MANUFACTURER MEMBER



Change Orders, Under Control

Easy approvals, fast payments,
and better GC relationships.

Get Paid Faster



*"Our GCs love the real-time COR
Logs and have requested that
we use Clearstory on other
projects"*



Gabrielle Lucatero
General Manager
Accurate Firestop

NEW @ ASTM

NFCA's Technical Director, Bill McHugh, and Dan Eehalt from Isolatek, travelled to Toronto, Ontario, Canada to meet and discuss ASTM E605, ASTM E736, and the DRAFT Fireproofing Inspection Standards.

In E605, Chair John Dalton, Monokote Fireproofing, is going to ballot to improve language about drying SFRM Samples in the laboratory to determine density. Labs are not supposed to 'overdry' the material. Overdrying SFRM fireproofing causes dry density measurement issues, resulting false negative readings. SFRM's endothermic action uses moisture inherent in the material, to help it maintain fire-resistance.

For ASTM E736, Dalton is also balloting to have the standard amended to require testing with 2" in lieu of several cap sizes, to bring a safer method for pull tests.

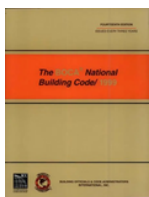
Authorization to ballot was granted by the Task Group for ASTM E2924, Standard Practice for Intumescent Coatings, as it is time for the renewal. Dan Eehalt, Isolatek, is working on this initiative. After renewal, there are several changes to be balloted to update the practice.



Fireproofing – 1990 to 2000 to 2025

Building codes mandate the minimum level of safety required in buildings. That minimum, is what seems to be a maximum sometimes. In some cases, building owners do build 'above code' safety into the structure.

The first International Building Code (IBC) was published in 2000 by the newly formed International Code Council. Prior to the IBC, there were three model codes published in the USA. The Southern Building Code Congress International's (SBCCI) Standard Building Code, Building Officials and Code Administrators International Association's (BOCA) National Building Code, and the International Conference of Building Officials' (ICBO) Uniform Building Code



Each code had separate fire-resistance (and other) requirements, with the UBC strictest, SBC least strict. At that time, a major initiative of the fire sprinkler industry was for fire sprinklers to be mandated / added to the building code and required nationally.

The fire sprinkler industry was successful getting a sprinkler mandate. And, it took 400+ 'trade ups' – where something was removed as a code requirement – to provide funding for the sprinkler system to be added, while not increasing the cost of construction.

As a result of the 'trade ups', and other reasons, structural fire-resistance protection was reduced significantly in buildings, with some jurisdictions experiencing 50% reductions in structural fire-resistance. Some would say the code became too lax from a fire-resistance-rated structural and compartmentation perspective. Others state, the code did not go far enough.

Regardless, NFCA has been advocating that what fireproofing remains in the code, it is critical it is tested to reflect field conditions, installed and inspected properly, with fire-resistance protection maintained for the building life cycle. We've focused on making sure what is installed works when called upon by fire.

The NFCA's work at ASTM and UL/ULC Standards Technical Panels has helped bring the field perspective to the code and standards development processes. NFCA's Contractor Accreditation Program and UL's Qualified Fireproofing Contractor Program both focus on installation quality, to reduce cost of construction through knowledge and efficiency. Special inspection code proposals have helped make sure the inspection focuses on installation quality. Fire code proposals and work results in annual visual inspection being required by the building owner and manager. Through work with the fire code commentary at ICC, fire-marshals will gain a better understanding what to look for when it comes to SFRM, IFRM and Boards and Wraps used for fireproofing.

In addition, there are areas where more fire-resistance is needed. See below for NFCA's positions on where more fire-resistance is needed.

NFCA @ ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS – CAH #1

NFCA's Technical Director, and Consultant to NFCA, Rich Walke, spent a week in Orlando, FL USA testifying on proposals affecting structural fire and life safety in buildings.

- 4 Hour Fire-Resistance Ratings, Parking garages – G66-25 & G116-25. These proposals were an important attempt to increase the rating on floors and shafts in open and closed parking garages in residential and other occupancies to 4 hours. With lithium-ion batteries, plastic gas tanks, increased plastic content in vehicles, this seems to be an important objective.

Sprinklers were added to both open and closed parking garages for the 2027 IBC.

Our proposals were presented as important safety item, where "Sprinklers AND Passive Fire Protection" are needed. We even got a positive vote from the sprinkler industry, who also was on the committee. The need for robust passive fire protection in parking garages was reinforced by an NFPA National Fire Protection Research Foundation report summary past parking structure fires and outlining future research testing needed.

While disapproved, we had great feedback from the ICC General Committee, especially the current and former fire-marshals. Their statement was that the hourly rating is important, and they look forward to the future National Fire Protection Research Foundation testing and reports.

NFCA will comment on this proposal – due in mid-July, 2025, to be heard in Cleveland in October.



NFCA Consultant Rich Walke, at ICC CAH2, Orlando, FL

Thank you
NFCA SILVER
MANUFACTURER MEMBERS



- Occupiable Roofs with fire-resistance ratings, and the 20' rule were also part of this code development hearing, with NFCA submitting three proposals.

In G119-25, we attempted to state that where every part of the roof construction is 20' or more above the floor or mezzanine immediately below, the 20' rule does not apply when the roof is occupiable. It was disapproved.

In G120-25, we declared that occupiable roofs should have a fire-resistance rating equal to or greater than the fire-resistance rating of the floor below. It was disapproved, but the committee stated to consider rating just the area under the occupiable roof area. The guidance provided from the committee helps pave our way to success (we hope) in the fall.

G121-25 dealt with single story occupiable roofs, and required fire-resistance ratings of at least 1 hour. It was disapproved, but the guidance provided in G120-25 might help with our comment for CAH #2.

The ICC Committee Action Hearings will reconvene in Cleveland, OH in October for the ICC Committee Action Hearing #2. NFCA will have comments to present on the proposals. Look for another report in December. Big thanks to Rich Walke, Consultant to NFCA for his work on this and previous code cycles. His code and standards knowledge makes a big difference for fire and life safety in buildings.

NFCA CONTRACTOR ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Fire-resistance rated beams, horizontal assemblies and columns are critical to the structure standing under fire. The NFCA recognized that individual industry knowledge, continuing education, and installation processes make for reliable installed fireproofing and help with fire and life safety in buildings through structural fire resistance.

NFCA's Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP) brings the industry a quantifiable way to qualify fireproofing contractors on projects. Contractors, if you are not yet accredited, consider it. We'll have another NFCA Education for NFCA SFRM and IFRM Fireproofing Exams session later this year. Get your NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge (HAFK), study it, and get ready for the exam. DRI's, don't forget to submit your Continuing Education Hours to NFCA's office to maintain your DRI Status.



UL's Qualified SFRM Fireproofing Contractor Program adds a third party audit dimension to the NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program. UL's QFRMP brings an audit of the contractor company's management system and a project site visit, recognizing the NFCA Designated Responsible Individual (DRI) status as part of the program.



Keep an eye on NFCA's Website for details, exam dates, next year's conference dates too.

CLEARSTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON COSTLY CHANGE ORDER CHALLENGES

As part of their ongoing efforts to support Specialty Contractors, NFCA Associate Member Clearstory recently surveyed over 100 contractors—and the results highlight some of the most pressing challenges facing the industry today.

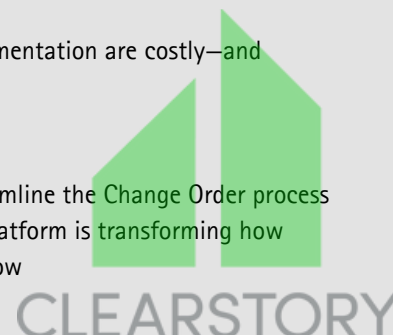
Change Order Requests (CORs) and out-of-scope work are eating up valuable time and resources. Here's just a snapshot of the data:

- Project Managers spend up to 15-hours per week managing out-of-contract work
- 3–4 weeks is the average time it takes to get a COR approved
- 40% of T&M Tickets are rejected due to missing or late documentation
- 70% of contractors say poor change order processing negatively impacts cash flow and job satisfaction
- 62% report strained relationships with General Contractors due to negotiation friction

These findings reinforce what many in our community already know: outdated processes and poor documentation are costly—and stressful.

That's where Clearstory comes in.

As an NFCA Associate Member, Clearstory offers a digital solution that helps Specialty Contractors streamline the Change Order process—eliminating paperwork delays, improving documentation accuracy, and accelerating approvals. Their platform is transforming how contractors communicate, collaborate, and get paid. Want to explore the full survey findings or learn how Clearstory can help your team? Visit clearstory.build to learn more.



NFCA INTERNATIONAL WORK

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.

NFCA's International Representative Abhishek (Abhi) Chhabra, has been making a difference for passive fire protection and structural fire-resistance. Abhi recently spoke at the India Fire College, Fire Protection Australia Conference, and is travelling to Las Vegas to participate at NFPA's Fire Expo. Watch for more on Abhi's work in future Enews.



PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST

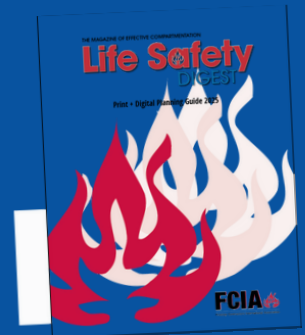
Life Safety Digest, the official publication of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), is the industry's go-to resource for firestopping, fireproofing, and fire-resistance-rated construction. Distributed quarterly to contractors, architects, engineers, code officials, and facility managers, it reaches the decision-makers shaping the built environment. The National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) is proud to be featured, providing expert insights into passive fire protection, including SFRM and IFRM systems.

Why Advertise?

- ◆ **Targeted Reach** — Connect with a qualified, engaged audience focused on life safety.
- ◆ **Credible Platform** — Backed by FCIA's leadership in codes and standards.
- ◆ **Multi-Channel Exposure** — Print, digital, and major industry events.
- ◆ **Valuable Context** — Your brand appears alongside trusted technical content and NFCA features.

Position your company where the fire-resistance conversation is happening — in Life Safety Digest.

DOWNLOAD
THE
2025
PRINT
+
DIGITAL
PLANNING
GUIDE



Advertising in *Life Safety Digest* isn't just visibility — it's credibility.

✉ Interested in advertising or reserving space in an upcoming issue?

Contact Lissette at Lissettek@cmservices.com or visit www.fcia.org for rates, deadlines, and specs.

EXCITING NFCA EVENTS!

NFCA-FCIA PasFiPro '25 Montreal, the annual Canadian Symposium, is this September 9–11, 2025 in Montréal, Québec. Registration is in full swing, and we're bringing together the best in Passive Fire Protection from across Canada and beyond. Join us for unmatched education, industry insights, and powerful conversations with exhibitors.





NFCA PARTNERS!

Have you heard? NFCA is traveling all over to spread the word on Passive Fire Protection. We know we are hard to keep up with, but not a problem. Follow us on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date with all that our Staff and Members are up to for the remainder of the year!

Catch us at THESE tradeshows in 2025!

- IFMA World Workplace – September 17–19, 2025 | Phoenix, AZ
At this global facility management event, NFCA will have a booth emphasizing how proper firestop system installation supports facility performance, compliance, and occupant safety.
- ICC Annual Conference & Expo – October 19–20, 2025 | Long Beach, CA
With a booth, NFCA will be engaging directly with code officials and specifiers to promote better understanding and enforcement of fire-resistance-rated systems.
- ExpoFire AMRACI – October 27–29, 2025 | Mexico
We're looking forward to returning to Latin America with a strong presence in the booth supporting regional education and awareness in LATAM around firestop systems.

NEW THINGS ARE ON THE HORIZON!

YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THEM. WANT TO BE ADDED TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS THREAD? EMAIL CAROL ANN TODAY!
CAROLB@CMSERVICES.COM

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Contractor Members

Colonial Insulation
Christman Constructors, Inc.

Associate Members

Clearstory Build
TriTech Industries, Inc.



Contractor Interim Members

Foam Expert Group

Contractor Branch Members

Performance Contractors Inc – San Diego