



THE ARIA RESORT
LAS VEGAS, NV

30 MARCH - 3 APRIL 2026



HILTI

CFP-ES ENDO-SHIELD FIRE PROTECTION MAT

Faster, safer fire protection

Lightweight and high flexibility

Faster Wraps. Safer Crews. Reduced Rework.

Get faster installs, safer outcomes, and peace of mind with CFP-ES Endo-Shield—Hilti's lightweight, flexible endothermic fire protection mat. Designed for real-world jobsite challenges, it wraps easily around cables, pipes, and conduits for cleaner installs, fewer errors, and protection you can trust.



Learn more about
CFP-ES Endo-Shield:

P 1-800-879-8000 | en español 1-800-879-5000 | Hilti, Inc.

www.hilti.com

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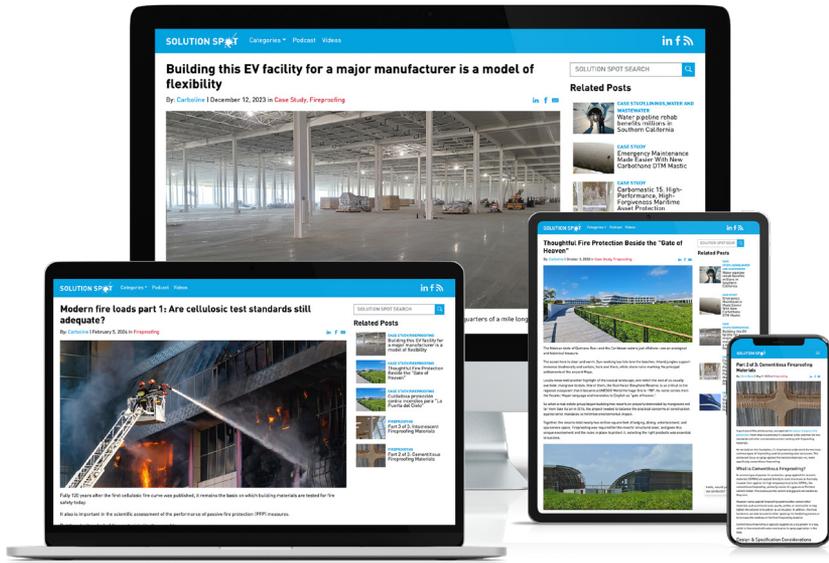
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SOLUTION SPOT

The Solution Spot has the answers to your tough coating, lining, and fireproofing questions.



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[carboline.com/solution-spot](https://www.carboline.com/solution-spot)

www.carboline.com



Welcome to PFP CON '26 Vegas, and thank you for being a part of the Firestop Contractors International and National Fireproofing Contractors Associations.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your 2026 FCIA and 2025 NFCA Board Presidents.

To our members, thank you for supporting the FCIA and NFCA and the efforts we're making to increase the global awareness of Passive Fire Protection and advance our shared mission of safer buildings worldwide. If you're not a member, we encourage you to join us.

PFP CON '26 Las Vegas! What an exciting time for us - FCIA and NFCA members alike - as we combining our efforts to produce the most explosive event for Passive Fire Protection the industry has witnessed to date. Finally! FCIA's Education & Committee Action Conference (ECA) and NFCA's Week of Learning together under one roof, forging unity, education, and committee initiatives! We're excited to see the industry growth, evolution, and innovation this new event sparks.

FCIA and NFCA continue to drive the foundation of the 'DIIM' message - 'D'esign, 'I'nstall, 'I'nspect and 'M'aintenance of Passive Fire Protection - created by the FCIA to promote safer buildings around the world. We will continue to grow and promote our industry educational and resource offerings, including the FCIA Firestop Education Program (FEP), NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge (HAFK), and FCIA Manual of Practice (MOP), as well as will continue to promote the contractor, inspection agency, and manufacturer accreditation programs.

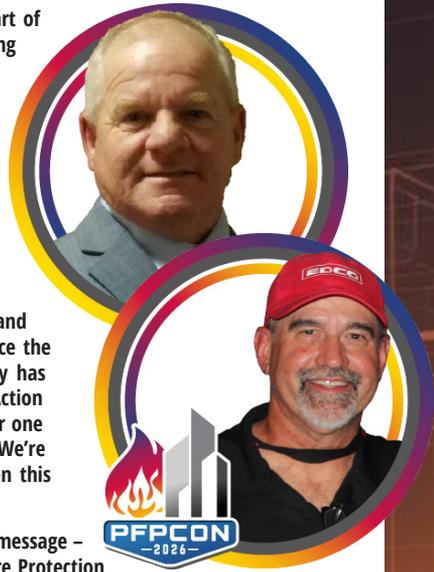
We will continue our collaborative efforts with one another and additional organizations in the Passive Fire Protection Industry, inclusive of Architects, Engineers, Contractors, Inspectors, and local AHJ's by providing education about Passive Fire Protection and increasing awareness about the critical role Specialty Contractors play in the success of safer buildings.

Our Director, International Initiatives, Ahbishek Chhabra, continues his tireless efforts to bring international awareness to the world of Passive Fire Protection. He has been recognized for his global impact educating key decision makers on the importance of the 'DIIM' model and has energized the rethinking and usage of the Specialty Contractor. Big thank you for your dedication, Ahbi.

In September '25, FCIA and NFCA introduced our new Technical Director, Dr. Gabby Peck. Gabby will be instrumental in providing educational content to the masses, not only to North America and Canada, but Internationally as well. Her expertise will be an asset to the Association and industry at large. Welcome aboard, Gabby!

In closing, we're looking forward to a robust 2026. We encourage you to take advantage of the calendar of events. As a member, supporter, follower, you are a part of a supportive Association committed to collaboration, growth, and shared success. FCIA and NFCA provide valuable resources, educational opportunities, and platforms for professional and personal growth. Consider committee involvement. Consider bringing FCIA and NFCA in to help educate the marketplace, Code Officials, AHJs, and all involved stakeholders. Help us grow together. YOU can make a difference. You've taken the first step to becoming a difference maker by attending here. Will you keep walking with us?

Thank you for your continued support of the FCIA. It takes teamwork to make the dream work!





2026 FCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the Association to thrive and grow, it needs good leaders, strong leadership. FCIA's Board of Directors is a very diverse and passionate group of Contractors. Each person has chosen to give back to the Association through serving on the Board, participating on Committee(s), and more.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Joe Wilkinson, DRI
ARC Firestop Solutions, Inc.
jwilkinson@arc-md.com

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Gabby Peck, Ph.D.
gabby@FCIA.org



NFCA's Board of Directors is responsible for steering the organization while adhering to the stated mission of furthering the quality of structural fire-resistance in buildings. To carry out this charge, NFCA Board volunteers meet multiple times per year to provide oversight and strategic direction.

PRESIDENT

Steve Winston
American Coatings Corporation
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Nikita Gordon
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2nd VICE PRESIDENT

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Howard Towler, Director Emeritus
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Bubba Winston, Director Emeritus
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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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FCIA & NFCA Committees are comprised of Member volunteers who work together on various pieces of Association business, from Codes and Standards development to Marketing outreach and more. This collaboration is how we gain industry consensus on issues related to the improvement of passive fire protection in buildings around the globe and how we create opportunities for the growth of our industry.

Consider volunteering your time and talents with one of the following Committees. Contact the Committee Chair(s) or lissettek@cmservices.com for additional information or to inquire about joining a Committee.

FCIA COMMITTEES

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair
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Tracy Smith, DRI - Co-Vice Chair
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FCIA COMMITTEES

EDUCATION TASK GROUP: FCIA MANUAL OF PRACTICE (MOP)

No Current Chair

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Carol Schary - Co-Chair
Nathan Kimmel
carols@nathankimmel.com

ARIA EAST CONVENTION CENTER MAP

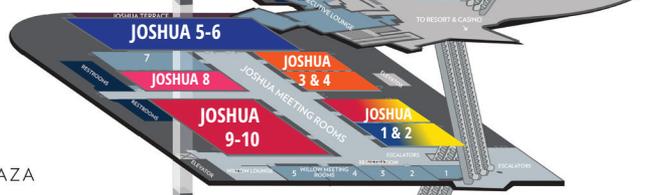
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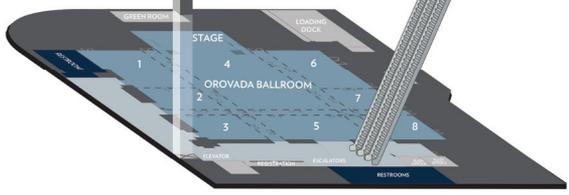
LEVEL 2



LEVEL 1



PLAZA



- **JOSHUA 1**
NFCA Education & the IFRM & SFRM Exams
FCIA Committee Action Sessions
- **JOSHUA 2**
FCIA Education & the FM & UL Exams
FCIA Committee Action Sessions
- **JOSHUA 3 & 4**
NFCA Committee Action Sessions
- **JOSHUA 5-6**
Fireproofing Tract

- **JOSHUA 8**
Women in Construction Breakfast
- **JOSHUA 9-10**
Firestop Tract
- **MARIPOSA BALLROOM**
General Sessions
Exhibits
Receptions
- **PRIMROSE BALLROOM**
PFPCON '26 Annual Awards Dinner



EDUCATION FOR THE IFRM & SFRM FIREPROOFING EXAMS

IFRM and SFRM Contractor Accreditation Programs prove Contractor knowledge, establish quality control processes, and ultimately improve the quality and accuracy of installed Intumescent Fire-Resistive Materials (IFRM) and Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials (SFRM).

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026 - IFRM FIREPROOFING EDUCATION

JOSHUA 1

All times listed are in PDT

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:00 am - 5:00 pm | PFPCON '26 Registration Open |
| 7:30 am - 8:00 am | Breakfast for IFRM & SFRM Education Attendees |
| 8:00 am - 8:15 am | The NFCA Contractor Accreditation Programs
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC |
| 8:15 am - 9:15 am | UL Product iQ Directory & IFRM Systems Selection
Rich Walke, CTI |
| 9:15 am - 9:45 am | Primers and NFCA Technical Bulletins
Greg Becker, Isolatek |
| 9:45 am - 10:00 am | Break |
| 10:00 am - 10:30 am | Measuring Thickness of IFRM Applications
Greg Becker, Isolatek |
| 10:30 am - 10:45 am | IFRM Thickness Gauge Demo
Greg Becker, Isolatek |
| 10:45 am - 11:30 am | NFCA 300 Application Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | NFCA 400 Quality Control Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC |
| 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm | Luncheon for IFRM & SFRM Education Attendees |

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MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026 - IFRM & SFRM FIREPROOFING EDUCATION

JOSHUA 1

All times listed are in PDT

- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm NFCA & UL SFRM Accredited Contractor Program Overviews
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Restrained Versus Unrestrained
John Dalton, GCP
- 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Break
- 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm The ICC Building Code Requirements for Fireproofing
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC | Rich Walke, CTI

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026 - SFRM FIREPROOFING EDUCATION & EXAMS

JOSHUA 1

All times listed are in PDT

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm PFPFCON '26 Registration Open
- 7:30 am – 8:00 am Breakfast for IFRM & SFRM Education Attendees
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am UL Product iQ Directory & SFRM Systems Selection
Dan Ehehalt, Isolotek
- 9:00 am – 9:30 am Beam Substitution Procedures & Examples
John Dalton, GCP
- 9:30 am – 10:00 am Thickness Adjustment Procedures & Examples
John Dalton, GCP
- 10:00 am – 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 am – 11:15 am UL Fire-Resistance Topics
Rich Walke, CTI
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm NFCA 100 Application Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC
- 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm NFCA 200 Quality Control Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC
- 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm Luncheon for IFRM & SFRM Exam Attendees
- 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm NFCA IFRM & SFRM Fireproofing Exams
Note: The IFRM & SFRM Fireproofing Exams are online OPEN BOOK exams. Participants MUST provide their own copy of the NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge (HAFK) and handouts, as well as a laptop and charger.

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EDUCATION FOR THE FM & UL FIRESTOP EXAMS

FCIA's Education for the Firestop Exams helps prepare Specialty Firestop Contractors and Special Inspectors to pass the FM or UL Firestop Exams. Passing the Firestop Exam(s) is required for Firestop Contractors pursuing FM 4991 Approved or UL Solutions Qualified Firestop status and for Firestop Inspectors to prove competence to AHJ's or International Accreditation Services IAS AC 291 Special Inspection Agency responsible individual status.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026

JOSHUA 2

All times listed are in PDT

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm PFPCON '26 Registration Open
- 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exams
Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA
- 2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Break
- 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm FCIA Education for the Firestop Exams (continued)
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Quality Management System Manual Development: A How-To Session
Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026

JOSHUA 2

All times listed are in PDT

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm PFPCON '26 Registration Open
- 7:30 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast for Firestop Exam Attendees
- 8:00 am - 11:30 am FM & UL Firestop Exams

Note: The UL Firestop Exam is OPEN BOOK exams. UL Exam Participants MUST provide their own copy of the FCIA Manual of Practice. The UL Canadian Supplement covers questions specific to Canada. The FM Firestop Exam DOES NOT allow use of the MOP during the exam.



The Ultimate Change Order Software for Firestop Contractors

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– Javier Lucatero, President, Accurate Firestop



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TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026

All times listed are in PDT

7:00 am – 6:00 pm	PFPCON '26 Registration Open	Registration Desk 2
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Exhibitor Move-In	Mariposa Ballroom

PFPCON '26 SPECIAL EVENT: HANDS-ON OFF-SITE DEMOS

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Meet in Tour Bus Lobby and Board Busses	Hotel Lobby
12:30 pm	Depart Hotel for The Industrial	
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Hands-On Off-Site Demos The Industrial Event Space 2330 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, NV 89102	
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Board Busses	
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm	Return to The Aria Resort & Casino	
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception with Exhibitors Attendees, Spouses, Guests, and Speakers Welcome Sponsored by Hilti Inc.	Mariposa Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

7:00 am - 5:00 pm	PFPCON '26 Registration Open	Registration Desk 2
7:30 am – 6:30 pm	PFPCON '26 Expo Floor Open	Mariposa Ballroom
7:30 am – 8:00 am	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors Sponsored by Owens Corning / Thermafiber	Mariposa Ballroom
8:00 am – 8:15 am	PFPCON '26 FCIA & NFCA Presidents' Welcome Joe Wilkinson, 2026 FCIA Board President Steve Winston, 2025 NFCA Board President	Mariposa Ballroom
8:15 am – 8:45 am	Passive Fire Protection: The Hero(es) You Never See Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA & NFCA Lindsey Dutkiewicz, FCIA & NFCA Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA	Mariposa Ballroom

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WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

8:45 am – 9:15 am	PFPCONtalk: FCIA & NFCA Committee Unmasked FCIA: Accreditation Canada Code Education Inspection Marketing Membership Program Standards NFCA: Accreditation Canada Education Finishes Task Group Program Project Management Task Group Safety Technical Codes & Standards Women in Fireproofing	Mariposa Ballroom
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Unleash Your Curiosity Diana Kander, Entrepreneur, Innovation Consultant, Speaker, Author	Mariposa Ballroom
10:15 am – 10:45 am	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by Inpro	Mariposa Ballroom
10:45 am – 11:45 am	FCIA Committee Action Sessions Standards Committee Accreditation Committee	Joshua 1 Joshua 2
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	NFCA Award of Excellence Nominees	Joshua 5-6
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Working Lunch Sponsored by Specified Technologies Inc.	Mariposa Ballroom
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch Session - Software Demos BuzzBid Clearstory Estimating Edge	Mariposa Ballroom
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	PFPCON '26 Exhibitor Updates	Mariposa Ballroom
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Codes and Compliance Pathways Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA & NFCA	Mariposa Ballroom
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by Flamro Brandschultz-Systeme	Mariposa Ballroom
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Solving Complex Fireproofing & Firestopping Conditions: Structural Steel, Joints, & Perimeter Systems Dan DeSantis, Specified Technologies Inc. <i>Session Closed to Manufacturer Attendees</i>	Joshua 9-10
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	The Future of Fireproofing: Training the Next Gen Anthony Kerstens, OPCMIA Antonio "Tony" Ruiz, OPCMIA Plasterers' Local No. 200 Steve Tasco, OPCMIA Plasterers' Local No. 200	Joshua 5-6

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WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	NFCA Committee Action Sessions Accreditation & Education Committees Safety Committee	Joshua 3 Joshua 4
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	FCIA & NFCA Joint Committee Action Session Canada Committees	Joshua 5-6
3:45 pm – 5:30 pm	FCIA Committee Action Session Inspection Committee Marketing & Membership Committees	Joshua 9-10 Joshua 2
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	NFCA Annual Business Meeting & Elections Lindsey Dutkiewicz, FCIA & NFCA Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA Paul Steele, NFCA Election Committee	Joshua 5-6
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Networking Reception Sponsored by Specified Technologies Inc.	Mariposa Ballroom

THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

7:00 am - 5:00 pm	PFPCON '26 Registration Open	Registration Desk 2
7:30 am – 5:30 pm	PFPCON '26 Expo Floor Open	Mariposa Ballroom
7:30 am – 8:00 am	Women in Construction Networking Breakfast Sponsored by Hilti Inc.	Joshua 8
7:30 am – 8:15 am	Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors Sponsored by Balco	Mariposa Ballroom
8:15 am – 9:15 am	First Brood Dr. Anirban Basu, Sage Policy Group	Mariposa Ballroom
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by MM Systems	Mariposa Ballroom
9:45 am – 10:15 am	The Firestop Contractor Accreditation Programs: News You Can Use Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions	Joshua 9-10
9:45 am – 10:30 am	NFCA Committee Action Sessions Marketing & Membership Committees Program Committee Manufacturer & Technical Codes & Standards Committees	Joshua 3 Joshua 4 Joshua 5-6

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THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

10:15 am – 11:00 am	Perimeter Edge-of-Slab Firestopping: Common Challenges and Practical Considerations Jessica Starks, Hilti <i>Session Closed to Manufacturer Attendees</i>	Joshua 9-10
10:30 am – 11:00 am	The Fireproofing Contractor Accreditation Programs: Updates and More Lindsey Dutkiewicz, NFCA Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions	Joshua 5-6
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by Fischerwerke GmbH & Co.	Mariposa Ballroom
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Bid Less, Win More Matt Verderamo, Well Built Consulting	Mariposa Ballroom
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch with Exhibitors Sponsored by Hilti Inc.	Mariposa Ballroom
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	What the Fire-Resistance Industries Need to Know About One Another Adam Carter, Superior Industrial Insulation Co. Douglas Evans, P.E. FSFPE Gus Mancini, Gleeson Powers Alan Mcdurmon, PCI Atlanta	Mariposa Ballroom
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by ROCKWOOL	Mariposa Ballroom
2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	NFCA Committee Action Sessions Finishes Task Group Women in Fireproofing Committee Project Management Task Group	Joshua 3 Joshua 4 Joshua 5-6
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	FCIA Committee Action Session Code Committee	Joshua 1
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm	FCIA Committee Action Sessions Education Committee Program Committee	Joshua 9-10 Joshua 2
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Predictive AI for Passive Fire Protection: Turning Documentation into Risk Intelligence Girish Ramachandra, Lumber	Joshua 5-6
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Networking Break with Exhibitors Sponsored by Construction Specialties	Joshua Prefunction



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THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm | How Long Am I Liable?
C. Leanne Prybylski, Esq., Hendrick Phillips Salzman & Siegel, P.C. | Joshua 5-6 |
| 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm | FCIA Association Report and Contractor & Inspection Agency Members Only Session | Joshua 9-10 |
| 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm | PFPCON '26 Dinner & NFCA Annual Awards & Entertainment
Sponsored by FCIA & NFCA | Primrose Ballroom |

FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2026

All times listed are in PDT

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 7:00 am – 10:00 am | PFPCON '26 Registration Open | Registration Desk 2 |
| 7:30 am – 11:00 am | PFPCON '26 Expo Floor Open | Mariposa Ballroom |
| 7:30 am – 8:15 am | Networking Breakfast with Exhibitors
Sponsored by Balco & Owens Corning / Thermafiber | Mariposa Ballroom |
| 8:15 am – 9:15 am | The Passive Fire Protection Code Report
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA Rich Walke, CTI | Mariposa Ballroom |
| 9:15 am – 9:30 am | Networking Break with Exhibitors
Sponsored by 3M | Mariposa Ballroom |
| 9:30 am – 10:30 am | From Sparks to Success: A Modern Guide to Fireproofing Startups
Nikita Gordon, Elmhurst Group Steve Winston, American Coatings Corporation | Joshua 5-6 |
| 9:30 am – 10:30 am | How to Build Credibility and Gain Respect and Trust with Code Officials
Brice Miller, Fire Containment Training Services | Joshua 9-10 |
| 10:30 am – 10:45 am | Networking Break with Exhibitors
Sponsored by Siderise Insulation Ltd. | Mariposa Ballroom |
| 10:45 am – 11:45 am | Closing Plenary Session
Building What's Next: The Global Future of Passive Fire Protection
Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA & NFCA Lindsey Dutkiewicz, FCIA & NFCA Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA | Mariposa Ballroom |

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THE FIREPROOFING EXAMS

EDUCATION FOR THE IFRM & SFRM FIREPROOFING EXAMS

NFCA's Education for the IFRM and SFRM Fireproofing Exams helps prepare Fireproofing Contractor personnel to pass the NFCA IFRM and SFRM Fireproofing Exams. Passing the Fireproofing Exam(s) is required for Fireproofing Contractors pursuing the NFCA IFRM and SFRM and UL SFRM Contractor Accreditation Programs.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

8:00 am - 8:15 am

The NFCA Contractor Accreditation Programs

Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC

What exactly does the National Fireproofing Contractors Association do, and what are the NFCA Contractor Accreditation Programs?

In this session, you'll hear about the mission of the NFCA and how we advocate and work to further the structural fire-resistance industry, like through the development and promotion of the NFCA IFRM and SFRM Contractor Accreditation Programs and why those programs are so important to fire and life safety in buildings around the world.

8:15 am - 9:15 am

UL Product iQ Directory & IFRM Systems Selection

Rich Walke, CTI

This session provides an overview of using IFRMs to protect structural building elements. Topics include why fire protection is needed, major U.S. and international fire-resistance test standards, how fire tests are conducted, essential IFRM terminology from UL Product iQ, UL assembly numbering, W/D ratios, and guidance for selecting appropriate IFRM designs.



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9:15 am - 9:45 am

Primers and NFCA Technical Bulletins
Greg Becker, Isolatek

During this session, candidate DRIs will learn the critical role primers play in the application of IFRMs, the methods used to describe primers in the UL Designs, the primer surface preparation requirements, the types of primers, compatibility requirements between primers and the IFRM, adhesion testing requirements, and recoat intervals.

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Measuring Thickness of IFRM Applications
Greg Becker, Isolatek

In this session, we review the process for measuring the thickness of applied Intumescent Fire-Resistive Materials (IFRMs). Candidate DRIs will learn about the requirements for determining IFRM thickness as required by AWCI Technical Manual 12-B, including visual inspection and thickness testing, the role of wet thickness measurements, the types of testing gauges used to measure thickness, gauge calibration and zeroing requirements, the proper technique for using thickness gauges, the frequency of thickness measurements, the role of Shore D Hardness measurements, the thickness requirements of AWCI Technical Manual 12-B, the location of thickness measurements on building elements, mediating thickness deficiencies, and patching and repairing IFRMs.

10:30 am - 10:45 am

IFRM Thickness Gauge Demo
Greg Becker, Isolatek

During this session candidate DRIs will participate in a hands-on demonstration of the use of an electronic thickness gauge.

10:45 am - 11:30 am

NFCA 300 Application Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC

During this session, candidate DRIs will learn the role of the NFCA 300 Standard Practice for the Application of Intumescent Fire-Resistive Material. Attendees will learn key industry terminology, OSHA safety requirements, product and storage guidelines, application equipment, environmental and site conditions, substrate requirements, proper spraying techniques, NFCA patching practices, and important contractual considerations such as exclusions and qualifications.

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

NFCA 400 Quality Control Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC

During this session candidate DRIs will learn the role of the NFCA 400 Field Quality Assurance Procedure for the Application of Intumescent Fire-Resistive Material. Topics to be covered are processes for determining acceptable substrate surface conditions, the acceptable environmental conditions, drying time and recoat intervals, storage and handling of the products, thickness measurements, mediating thickness deficiencies, and inspection of IFRMs.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The NFCA & UL SFRM Accredited Contractor Program Overviews
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

You've taken the first step to contractor accreditation, but what is it exactly? In this session, we look at the Contractor Accreditation Programs for fireproofing, including the requirements of the program including the merits of being an NFCA and UL SFRM Accredited Contractor, the components of the program, and the steps necessary to become accredited.



THE FIREPROOFING EXAMS

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Restrained Versus Unrestrained

John Dalton, GCP Saint-Gobain

Restrained versus Unrestrained, that is the question, and in this session, we'll figure out the answer.

During this session, candidate DRIs will learn how restrained and unrestrained project conditions plays a crucial role in the life safety of the occupants of a building. The session provides an overview of the 50 year debate over which rating is appropriate, how the restrained and unrestrained ratings are determined based on fire tests in accordance with ASTM E119 and UL 263, the language of the International Building Code and National Building Code of Canada relating to restrained and unrestrained ratings, the methods for determining whether a building is restrained or unrestrained, and the impact that decision has on the required thickness of fireproofing.

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm

The ICC Building Code Requirements for Fireproofing

Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC | Rich Walke, CTI

During this session, candidate DRIs will learn the requirements of the International Building Code (IBC) as it pertains to the fireproofing industry. Topics to be covered include pertinent definitions, how the use of automatic sprinklers impacts the Type of Construction Classification, the required bond strength for SFRM products, the method of determining the building height and area limitations, the mixed occupancy requirements, the Types of Construction, the required fire-resistance rating for the various building elements, the methods of determining a fire-resistance rating, the unique requirements for structural elements, exterior walls, fire walls, fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers, smoke partitions, horizontal assemblies and shaft enclosures, the requirements for rooftop structures, and the requirements for special inspections of SFRMs and IFRMs.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 am

UL Product iQ Directory & SFRM Systems Selection Dan Ehehalt, Isoltek

Participants will gain foundational knowledge on using SFRMs to protect structural building elements. The session covers why fire protection is required, key fire-resistance test standards in the US and internationally, how fire tests are performed, and essential SFRM terminology from UL Product iQ. Attendees will also learn how UL assembly numbering works, the requirements in the UL Guide Information for SFRMs, the concept of W/D ratios, and guidance for selecting appropriate SFRM designs.

9:00 am - 9:30 am

Beam Substitution Procedures & Examples John Dalton, GCP Saint-Gobain

This session explains the two methods for adjusting the thickness of SFRM as applied to alternate size structural steel elements based on the W/D ratios. Adjusting the thickness of SFRM can be done based on generic equations contained in the UL Guide Information for Fire-Resistance Ratings – ANSI/UL 263 or in some cases based on equations in the individual designs. Both involve understanding the W/D ratio of the beam contained in the UL Design, the W/D of the alternate steel element, the thickness adjustment equation for steel beams and steel columns, and the limitations of the use of the equations.

9:30 am - 10:00 am

Thickness Adjustment Procedures & Examples John Dalton, GCP Saint-Gobain

In this session, candidate DRIs will learn how to adjust the thickness of SFRM for alternative structural steel sizes using W/D ratios. The training covers two methods: applying the generic equations in the UL Guide Information for Fire-Resistance Ratings (ANSI/UL 263) and using adjustment equations found in certain UL designs. Participants will learn how to determine W/D ratios for both the original and alternate steel members, apply the appropriate beam or column thickness adjustment equations, and understand the limitations of each method.

10:15 am - 11:15 am

UL Fire-Resistance Topics Rich Walke, CTI

This session covers key requirements from the UL Guide Information for Fire-Resistance Ratings (ANSI/UL 263). Participants will learn about UL Follow-Up Services, methods for protecting painted or oversized steel members, protection of primed or painted steel deck, treatment of bridging bars, and the use of encapsulants, bonding agents, and sealants. Additional topics include using dissimilar materials on a single element, patching SFRM and IFRM, applying floor-ceiling designs as roof-ceiling assemblies, using Restricted Load Conditions, and addressing flute cavity protection.



THE FIREPROOFING EXAMS

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

NFCA 100 Application Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC

During this session, candidate DRIs will learn the role of the NFCA 100 - Standard Practice for the Application of SFRM, including terminology used by the SFRM industry, OSHA safety requirement relating to the application of SFRMs, the requirements for the SFRM products, storage and handling of the products, equipment used for the application of SFRMs, the requirements for the application environment, the requirements for the installation site, the requirements for the substrate to receive the SFRM, proper spraying techniques, the proper protection during curing, NFCA patching guidelines, and contractual language relating to exclusions, qualifications and clarifications.

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

NFCA 200 Application Standard
Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC

During this session candidate DRIs will learn the role of NFCA 200 - Field Quality Assurance Procedures for the Application of SFRMs. Topics to be covered are determining acceptable substrate surface conditions, the acceptable environmental conditions, applications to flexible metal decking, water control procedures, water flow rates and calibration procedures, water ratio requirements, and SFRM wet density requirements.



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EDUCATION FOR THE FM & UL FIRESTOP EXAMS

FCIA's Education for the Firestop Exams helps prepare Specialty Firestop Contractors and Special Inspectors to pass the FM or UL Firestop Exams. Passing the Firestop Exam(s) is required for Firestop Contractors pursuing FM 4991 Approved or UL Solutions Qualified Firestop status and for Firestop Inspectors to prove competence to AHJ's or International Accreditation Services IAS AC 291 Special Inspection Agency responsible individual status.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

12:00 pm - 3:30 pm

FCIA Education for the FM & UL

Firestop Exams

Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA

The FM & UL Firestop Exams are based on FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice (MOP), the FM & UL program guides, and systems selection and analysis. These exams are used for contractor personnel to become FM 4991 Approved Contractor and UL Qualified Contractor Program DRIs.

For Special Inspectors, passing the exam proves firestopping competency to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), required by the IBC's Chapter 17. Passing an exam is also a requirement in IAS AC 291 for the Inspector to become a Responsible Person.

The FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exam education sessions help prepare individuals and support individual preparation for these rigorous exams,

further strengthening and developing firestopping knowledge.

*This program IS NO SUBSTITUTE for reading FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice and studying the FM & UL program guides and systems selection and analysis before the exams.

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Quality Management System Manual Development: A How-To Session

Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

This session takes an in-depth look at the Quality Management System (QMS) Manual requirements for the FM 4991 Approved, UL Qualified Firestop Contractor, and IAS AC 291 Accreditation programs. The session also provides tips and a framework for structuring and writing a comprehensive QMS Manual.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

8:00 am - 11:30 am

FM & UL Firestop Exams

The UL Firestop Exam is an OPEN BOOK exam. UL Exam Participants MUST provide their own copy of the FCIA Manual of Practice. The UL Canadian Supplement covers questions specific to Canada. The FM Firestop Exam DOES NOT allow use of the MOP during the exam.



THE PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

PFPCON '26 combines the FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference and the NFCA Week of Learning and brings together the structural fire-resistance and effective compartmentation industries for a dynamic tradeshow, compelling industry education, high-energy networking events. Here you can immerse yourself in the experiences, connections, and opportunities that move the Passive Fire Protection industry forward - from professional development and accreditation to hands-on engagement and high-impact brand presence.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

12:00 pm - 4:15 pm

PFPCON '26 Group Outing

The Industrial Event Space

2330 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Join PFPCON '26 for an exciting group outing and hands-on demo sessions!

We'll be joined by some of the Passive Fire Protection industry's leading manufacturers and distributors as we test and inspect an array of fireproofing and firestopping systems and installations.

Goggle up and spray some cementitious fireproofing with the pros at GCP, Quikspray, Isolatek, and Ventures Equipment.

Get hands-on with Balco's Expansion

Joint firestop systems and see what real protection looks like.

Lay down some serious Intumescent Fire-Resistive Material (IFRM) with Isolatek, PPG, and TriTech.

Put your skills to the test installing large-diameter plastic pipe firestop systems with Hilti.

Level up your expertise in perimeter fire containment with live Curtainwall demos from Specified Technologies and Hilti.

If you're involved in fireproofing and firestopping, or are curious about one or the other, this demo session is for you!

Transportation and refreshments will be provided.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

8:00 am - 8:15 am

PFPCON '26 FCIA & NFCA Presidents' Welcome

Joe Wilkinson, 2026 FCIA Board President | Steve Winston, 2025 NFCA Board President

PFPCON, the Passive Fire Protection Conference & Trade Show...the first-ever global event dedicated to the education, promotion, innovation, and collaboration of the global Passive Fire Protection industry. We're putting PFP on the global stage and shining a light on the important role PFP plays in building safety.

Bringing together FCIA's Education & Committee Action Conference (ECA) and NFCA's Week of Learning under one roof, PFPCON '26 is the industry's first step towards forging unity, education, and committee initiatives that will impact the global Passive Fire Protection industry for generations to come.

8:15 am - 8:45 am

Passive Fire Protection: The Hero(es) You Never See

Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA & NFCA | Lindsey Dutkiewicz, FCIA & NFCA | Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA

Join us for the opening session of the Passive Fire Protection Conference & Trade Show, where we reflect on the core work of Passive Fire Protection to recognize and celebrate the critical (often overlooked) contributions the Passive Fire Protection industry makes every day.

Through real-world case studies that connect daily tasks of firestopping and fireproofing to real-life outcomes, this session reinforces why Passive Fire Protection matters: it saves lives, averts disasters, and safeguards buildings and communities.

This session provides a grounded reminder of the practical impact of PFP in the world around us, emphasizing its importance in enhancing fire safety and resilience and setting the stage for a week focused on PFP.

8:45 am - 9:15 am

PFPCONTalk: FCIA & NFCA Committees Unmasked

FCIA: Accreditation | Canada | Code | Education | Inspection | Marketing | Membership | Program | Standards
NFCA: Accreditation | Canada | Education | Finishes Task Group | Program | Project Management Task Group | Safety | Technical Codes & Standards | Women in Fireproofing

Last year, the FCIA and NFCA Boards of Directors made the calls to members to help shape the future of the Passive Fire Protection industry through Committee and Association involvement. Many stood up and answered the call.

Picking up the mics once again, Lissette and Lindsey put FCIA and NFCA Committee Chairs on the hot seat to get answers to your burning Committee questions. We'll figure out what these Committees really do and how Committee work turns into guidance, education, and advocacy. We may even finally answer which Committee runs entirely on coffee and what "other duties as assigned" actually means.

This year, they are looking for even more hand raising, even more idea generating, even more Committee participation. The only way to get them to stop is to volunteer and get involved!



9:15 am - 10:15 am

Unleash Your Curiosity

Diana Kander, Entrepreneur, Innovation Consultant, Speaker, Author

In today's ever-changing business climate, your attendees' roles have evolved far past their job descriptions. They face a volatile external environment - they encounter pressure to stay relevant to customers - they experience challenging workforce issues - and they are being asked to do a lot more with a lot less. All of this is asking them to be innovators. The big question is, are they doing it the hard way or the easy way.

Based on her book, *The Curiosity Muscle*, this keynote helps members of organizations who don't have innovation in their job description to embrace and identify as an innovator. Diana will share the key skills and habits that make innovation easier and a lot more fun. And she'll empower attendees to harness the power of curiosity to unlock new possibilities and drive business growth. Attendees will leave this keynote identifying as innovators and seeking opportunities to use their new skills.

During this session, attendees will learn:

- How to institutionalize curiosity, asking better questions to stay competitive and relevant to your customers
- How to determine blind spots within your organization and avoid falling into the "expert trap"
- How to create a more innovative culture that leads to results and drives growth

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

NFCA Award of Excellence Nominees

The projects are in. The stakes are high. Now it's time to hear directly from the 2026 NFCA Award of Excellence nominees.

Each team will pull back the curtain on the real-world challenges they faced - from safety and scheduling to logistics and execution - and how they delivered winning

solutions. You'll get a front-row seat to industry-leading work...and then YOU decide who takes home the honors with real-time voting.

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch Session - Software Demos

BuzzBID | Clearstory | Estimating Edge

Looking for a software solution for Change Orders? Bids? AI? Then make sure to attend this software demo session where software providers provide real-time demos, then make time to meet with them during the trade show.

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

PFPCON '26 Exhibitor Updates

PFPCON '26 exhibitors take the stage to announce new products and company news!

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm

Codes and Compliance Pathways

Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA & NFCA

Building Codes around the world continue to evolve regularly. This session touches on how they evolve, slightly differently from each other, but more importantly how similar they are in intent.

With that background, we explore the mechanics of compliance and various conformity assessment mechanisms which are used to enforce these building codes. As the construction industry evolves at different paces around the world, so are the approaches to construction and tracking building materials and workmanship. With an aim to understanding how repeatability of supply of materials, as well as workmanship, can be assessed, compliance pathways will shed light on the nooks and corners of what gets written into technical regulations, as well as procurement contracts that can help plug the gaps and enhance reliability by making liability and responsibility more quantifiable!

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

The Future of Fireproofing: Training the Next Generation

Anthony Kerstens, OPCMIA | Antonio “Tony” Ruiz, OPCMIA Plasterers’ Local No. 200 | Steve Tasco, OPCMIA Plasterers’ Local No. 200

Strong projects start with strong laborers. This session provides an essential overview of training frameworks designed to build a knowledgeable, capable, and safety driven fireproofing workforce. Attendees will explore the core competencies every fireproofing laborer should master – ranging from understanding material types and application methods to equipment operation and safe equipment use, inspection basics to quality control, job site best practices and troubleshooting in the field. Whether you’re an educator, contractor, program administrator, or field worker, you’ll leave with practical ideas to enhance training quality and support the next generation of fireproofing professionals.

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Solving Complex Fireproofing & Firestopping Conditions: Structural Steel, Joints, & Perimeter Systems

Dan DeSantis, Specified Technologies

Complex structural conditions often create gaps in fire-resistive continuity. This course addresses practical challenges including increased spray overlaps for bond integrity, sealing around beams and bar joists, framing to support mineral wool, sequencing SFRM installations, and detailing around IFRM-coated members. Attendees will learn how to interpret UL listings, apply System HW-D-0102, and properly manage untested beam penetrations and modified web conditions through appropriate engineering judgments.

Session Closed to Manufacturer Attendees

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

NFCA Annual Business Meeting & Elections

Lindsey Dutkiewicz, NFCA | Gabby Peck, Ph.D., NFCA | Paul Steele, NFCA Election Committee

Hear from the NFCA Executive and Technical Directors as they review all the exciting things that happened at NFCA last year and everything there is to look forward to in 2025. Then, hear from your NFCA Election Committee Chair and elect your 2026 NFCA Board of Directors.



THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026**8:15 am - 9:15 am****First Brood**

Dr. Anirban Basu, Sage Policy Group

Everyone is speculating about what 2026 will bring. After an incredibly active 2025, can the U.S. economy maintain its momentum, or will lingering economic uncertainty translate into the next recession?

In this fast-paced, data-driven presentation, we will monitor the latest trends in employment, housing, commercial real estate, financial markets, and output. You can expect some surprises, perhaps an insight or two, and maybe even a few laughs as we characterize the present and predict the future.

9:45 am - 10:15 am**The Firestop Contractor Accreditation Programs: News You Can Use**

Scott MacGovern, FM Approvals | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

This session looks at program and company updates for the FM 4991 Approved and UL Solutions Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs.

10:15 am - 11:00 am**Perimeter Edge-of-Slab Firestopping: Common Challenges and Practical Considerations**

Jessica Starks, Hilti

This technical presentation examines challenges associated with perimeter edge-of-slab firestopping, particularly at the interface with curtain wall systems. The discussion focuses on constructability, system compatibility, code compliance, and coordination issues encountered in curtain wall design, with particular emphasis on modular construction.

After completing this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify common perimeter firestopping challenges associated with aluminum-framed curtain wall assemblies.
2. Reference and apply applicable codes and standards governing perimeter fire containment systems.
3. Distinguish between unitized and stick-built curtain wall construction and their implications for firestopping design and installation.
4. Evaluate firestopping considerations unique to modular construction methods.
5. Understand the role of construction sequencing in achieving compliant and effective perimeter firestopping installations.

Session Closed to Manufacturer Attendees**10:30 am - 11:00 am****The Fireproofing Contractor Accreditation Programs: Updates and More**

Lindsey Dutkiewicz, NFCA | Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions

Half of NFCA's Contractor Members are accredited in NFCA's Contractor Accreditation Program (CAP), with hundreds of DRIs on staff.

UL's Qualified SFRM Contractor Program has new companies coming on board.

The NFCA CAP and UL SFRM QFCP Programs provide NFCA Contractor Members the ability to jump to the next level of professionalism and separate themselves from competitors. This session provides an overview of the programs' status and new developments worldwide.

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Bid Less, Win More

Matt Verderamo, Well Built Consulting

Have you ever struggled to get a call back after bid day? Have you ever wondered how to negotiate more work? If so, Bid Less, Win More, is built for you.

In this session, we will discuss the fundamentals of sales for construction companies, including strategies for building stronger relationships, getting calls back after bid day, and positioning your proposal for the highest likelihood of success. Join us to accelerate your "Get Work" engine and start winning more work.

After this session, attendees will be able to:

- Adopt a new business development mentality to improve results
- Discover how to use leverage during the sales process
- Add more value to your estimating team
- Build stronger client relationships based on trust
- Walk away with a system for improving your chances at negotiating work

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

What the Fire-Resistance Industries Need to Know About One Another

Adam Carter, Superior Industrial Insulation Co. | Douglas Evans, P.E., FSFPE | Gus Mancini, Gleeson Powers | Alan Mcdurmon, PCI Atlanta

Passive Fire Protection is a critical fire and life safety element for total building protection. Tune in for this round table discussion where

we explore both structural fire-resistance and effective compartmentation - the two essential pillars of Passive Fire Protection.

Although firestopping and fireproofing approach fire safety from different angles - one focused on containing fire and smoke through effective compartmentation, the other on protecting structural elements to prevent premature building collapse - both disciplines are interdependent and vital to comprehensive fire protection.

In this session, we'll break down the essential structural fire-resistance concepts that every firestopping professional should understand to ensure continuity of protection across the entire assembly: materials, methods, thickness requirements, inspection points, and the underlying fire test fundamentals.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about what happens when a fire-resistance-rated beam becomes part of the same rated gypsum panel or concrete block wall assembly.
- Review when structural wood or steel building elements penetrate through a breach in a fire-resistance-rated wall assembly.
- Understand more about firestopping head of wall assemblies when the horizontal assembly is protected and not protected.
- Learn the differences between firestopping and fireproofing.
- Discuss whether bottom of wall joint protection is prudent.
- Analyze duct wrap protection.
- Explore thin film intumescent protection for structural steel.

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3:15 pm - 4:00 pm

Predictive AI for Fire Protection Leaders: Quantifying and Reducing Compliance & Safety Risk Girish Ramachandra, Lumber

Passive fire protection may not be visible once the walls close, but the risk exposure remains. For fireproofing and firestopping contractors, incomplete penetration logs, inconsistent inspection records, prevailing wage errors, and documentation gaps can quietly erode margins and create audit, insurance, and bonding risk.

This session explores how firms can use structured data — from inspection logs and penetration tracking to time cards, certified payroll, and project cost records to move from reactive compliance to proactive risk management. By identifying patterns in recurring deficiencies, labor classification issues, and documentation inconsistencies, contractors can reduce callbacks, improve first-pass inspection success, and strengthen internal controls on public work.

We'll also discuss how accurate, current documentation supports building managers and facility engineers in maintaining life-safety integrity and simplifies insurance risk evaluation.

Attendees will leave with a practical framework to quantify compliance exposure, protect profitability, and strengthen documentation governance across the lifecycle of passive fire protection projects.

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

How Long Am I Liable?

C. Leanne Prybylski, Esq., Hendrick Phillips
Salzman & Siegel, P.C.

This presentation discusses the various theories of liability and how long contractors/ manufacturers/engineers/designers may be liable. The presentation includes discussion regarding (i) the types of claims that may be brought against a party,

(ii) statutes of limitations and repose, (ii) how a contractor could inadvertently extend the time a claimant has to bring a claim, (iii) when and why an individual could be found personally liable, and (iv) how a party may seek to limit its liability.

Learn about:

- Theories of liability
- Statutes of limitations and repose (e.g., How long are you liable? When does a cause of action accrue?)
- How to avoid becoming personally liable for a claim
- How you may seek to limit your liability

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

FCIA Association Report and Contractor & Inspection Agency Members Only Session

Let your voice be heard in this FCIA Contractor & Inspection Agency Members Only session. Ask questions. Provide input. Address your Board and Leadership. Put this session to work for you.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

8:15 am - 9:15 am

The Passive Fire Protection Code Report

Bill McHugh, McHugh Consulting LLC | Gabby Peck, Ph.D., FCIA & NFCA | Rich Walke, CTI

The Building and Fire Code Development Process at the International Code Council, NFPA, National Building / Fire Code of Canada, and other codes, is as dull as it gets. However, industries can appear or disappear by a code proposal eliminating the industry.

This session covers what we'll be discussing at the upcoming ICC Code Development Committee Action Hearings in October, Public Comment Hearing in April, 2026, summer NFPA Fire Protection Features Committee. Meeting in summer, 2026, Canada codes too. Don't miss it!

9:30 am - 10:30 am

From Sparks to Success: A Modern Guide to Fireproofing Startups

Nikita Gordon, Elmhurst Group | Steve Winston, American Coatings Corporation

Explore what it takes to enter the fireproofing industry with confidence. We'll cover the core decisions that shape successful fireproofing businesses - materials, equipment, regulations, staffing, certification and compliance requirements, and risk mitigation.

Leave with actionable insights to minimize issues, maximize success, and build a startup designed to carve out a strong position in the structural fire-resistance space.

9:30 am - 10:30 am

How to Build Credibility and Gain Respect and Trust with Code Officials

Brice Miller, Fire Containment Training Services LLC

This program will help provide some communication suggestions for primarily Firestop Contractors and Special Inspectors as they are working with Code Officials. We will also include the Design Professionals along with Code Officials. Participants will gain valuable skills to help them in their line of work.

Overall, attendees will leave this program informed, encouraged, and equipped with numerous tips and techniques to help them in their field of work.

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Building What's Next: The Global Future of Passive Fire Protection

The FCIA and NFCA leadership team invite you to the closing plenary session of the inaugural PFPCON to get an energizing look at what's next for the global Passive Fire Protection community. Together, they'll share the pioneering initiatives, fresh ideas, and strategic priorities already taking shape to drive the future of the industry.

Attendees will get a front-row seat to the bold visions and practical strategies guiding both Associations as they champion a "global language of Passive Fire Protection", deeper collaboration, and a more unified global approach to Passive Fire Protection. This isn't just a recap - it's a forward-facing roadmap for where we're going and how we'll get there.

After all, FCIA and NFCA are the global language and voice of Passive Fire Protection.



Anirban Basu, MPP, MA, JD, Ph.D., Chairman & CEO

Anirban Basu is the Chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group, an economic and policy consulting firm headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland with an office in Orlando, Florida.

In 2014, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed him Chair of the Maryland Economic Development Commission (2014-2021). He serves as Chairman of the Baltimore County Economic Advisory Committee. He also serves the chief economist function for Associated Builders and Contractors, the Construction Financial Management Association, the Modular Building Institute, the Maryland Bankers Association, the International Food Distributors Association, and several others.

In 2007, 2016, and 2022, the Daily Record newspaper selected Dr. Basu as one of Maryland's 50 most influential people. The Baltimore Business Journal named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010.

Dr. Basu is currently on the boards of the University of Maryland School of Law, St. Mary's College, the University of Maryland Medical Center, the University System of Maryland Foundation, the Lyric Opera House, the B&O Railroad Museum, and the Center Club. He is also on Truist Bank's advisory board.

Dr. Basu earned his B.S. in Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He earned his Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and his Master's in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He acquired his Juris Doctor at the University of Maryland School of Law. He completed his doctoral work at UMBC with a concentration in health economics.

He has lectured at several universities, including Johns Hopkins University and Goucher College.

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Greg Becker, Strategic Account Manager



Greg Becker is a Field Services Manager for Isolatek International. With extensive experience in passive fire protection, field operations, and technical support. He has spent his career working closely with contractors, inspectors, and manufacturers to ensure fireproofing systems are installed correctly, tested properly, and aligned with code requirements. Greg is known for his practical, field driven approach to problem solving and his ability to translate complex technical standards into clear, actionable guidance.

Greg is deeply passionate about the fireproofing industry and the critical role it plays in life safety. He believes fireproofing is one of the most important—and often misunderstood—elements of building construction, and he is driven to elevate the industry through education, accountability, and real world best practices.

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Adam Carter, Director of Fire and Life Safety



Adam Carter has over 20 years of experience in the Life Safety Industry, bringing a well-rounded perspective from his diverse roles across the sector. He began his career in manufacturing before transitioning to distribution, and now applies his expertise in contracting as the Director of Fire and Life Safety for Superior Industrial Insulation.

Throughout his career, Mr. Carter has contributed to some of the largest projects in the Midwest, ensuring the highest standards of fire safety. Superior Industrial Insulation, a proud member of the National Fireproofing Contractors Association, is dedicated to advancing fireproofing practices and raising industry awareness. As an NFCA Qualified Fireproofing Contractor, the company upholds a commitment to quality and life-saving fire protection measures every day.

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Abhishek Chhabra, Director, International Initiatives

Abhishek Chhabra is an Assurance Industry expert with nearly 20 years of experience in conformity assessment. His career spans a wide range of industries, from consumer electronics and household appliances to machinery, construction materials, and hazardous goods. He has deep knowledge of international compliance standards, including those set by North America, Europe, Britain, ISO, IMO, and Indian authorities.

Abhishek is a passionate advocate for passive fire protection. He has worked in Testing, Inspection & Certification bodies ensuring compliance of various building materials and products and their installation related to Fire Safety. He has also dedicated himself to educating stakeholders across the entire fire safety ecosystem. This includes consultants, contractors, manufacturers, regulators, and accreditation bodies.

His commitment extends beyond compliance industry. Abhishek actively participates in advisory committees for standards development organizations and accreditation bodies. He has had active involvement in development of Standards in India (BIS), Saudi Arabia (SASO), American Standards (UL) and the UAE Fire and Life safety Code of Practice. He shares his expertise through publications, articles, and conference presentations, promoting the effective use of fire safety codes and compliance regimes. His contribution to Independent Review of the Construction Product Testing Regime led by Paul Morrell and Anneliese Day for the UK government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has been a recent highlight.

Currently, Abhishek represents two leading industry associations: the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) and the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA). In this role, he spearheads efforts to raise awareness and understanding of passive fire protection practices across diverse audiences.

Abhishek's dedication goes beyond fire safety. Through his initiative, tic.guru, he offers educational courses that empower professionals with a deeper understanding of the Testing, Inspection, and Certification (TIC) industry. He also undertakes bespoke consulting services to assurance businesses and has a public training program offered via Udemy, called, "Masterclass in Assurance Industry".

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John Dalton P.E., Technical Service Manager for Fire Protection Products



John Dalton P.E. has almost 20 years' experience in the fire protection field, dealing primarily with the protection of structural steel, concrete, and thermal barriers for foamed plastic.

John is a principal committee member of the NFPA 502 Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways Committee that details the fire protection and fire life safety requirements for limited access highways, road tunnels, bridges, elevated highways, depressed highways, and roadways that are located beneath air-right structures. He is Task Group Chair of ASTM E6.21 Committee that oversees Standards related to the testing of in-place fireproofing.

John is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer, an NFPA Certified Fire Protection Specialist, and an ICC Certified Special Inspector of spray-applied materials. John has a B.S in Chemistry and Mathematics and a Graduate Diploma in Industrial Chemistry. He is the Technical Service Manager for Fire Protection Products at GCP Saint-Gobain (formerly W. R. Grace) and he resides in Massachusetts.

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Daniel Ehehalt, Marketing Manager



Dan Ehehalt brings more than 15 years of experience with Isolatak International, where he has contributed across multiple areas including R&D, technical service, sales, and marketing. His extensive expertise spans the development of fire protection solutions, product marketing, and compliance with safety standards and regulations in the commercial, industrial, and petrochemical markets. Dan has been actively involved in ASTM, ICC, and UL committees, contributing to the advancement of fireproofing industry standards.

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Douglas H. Evans, P.E., FSFPE

After 22 years as a Fire Protection Engineer with Clark County Building Department, **Doug Evans** founded DHE FPE LLC to provide specialized consulting services to the construction industry. In his position with Clark County, his primary focus was coordinating fire protection aspects for the mega-resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. These facilities are essentially “cities under one roof”. His duties included review, comment and approval of fire protection plans on a wide range of issues and occupancy types, for new as well as existing facilities. He has been responsible for malls, atria, theaters, arenas and mega-resorts, as well as numerous high-rise residential and office towers. He was also responsible for developing fire protection-related policy statements and guidelines for internal and external use.

While Mr. Evans specializes in a few areas of fire protection, his knowledge includes suppression and detection/alarm systems, fire-resistive construction, exiting, elevators, secondary power supplies, fire testing, fire modeling, hazardous materials and the codes/standards requirements that apply to the specific fire protection aspects. Some of his areas of specialization include: alternates/equivalences (performance-based designs) to prescriptive code requirements, smoke management systems, plastics/foam plastics as building materials, interior finishes, unique interior features, combustible exterior facades, grease duct enclosures and product listings/applications for use on and within structures.

Prior to his position with Clark County, Mr. Evans worked for two world renowned fire protection engineering consulting firms. The experience gained in these positions included examining existing structures to determine if the fire protection aspects were compliant with applicable codes and standards, designing exit systems, specifying fire-resistive aspects of building components, specifying when fire suppression and alarm systems were required, reviewing code requirements and negotiating levels of protection with stakeholders. During those years, he developed an understanding of virtually all active and passive fire protection aspects that are incorporated into major structures and how they work together to provide a holistic approach to fire protection for a contiguous facility.

Throughout his career, Mr. Evans has published several articles in trade journals and given a number of professionally related presentations. In 1999, Mr. Evans authored an interpretative guide to the smoke control provisions outlined in Section 905 of the 1997 Uniform Building Code. That document was updated to correlate with the 2000, 2003 and 2006 editions of the International Building Code (IBC) with each edition providing increasingly greater detail. He has also authored a number of amendments that have been incorporated into the IBC.

Mr. Evans is a registered Fire Protection Engineer in Nevada and California..

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Nikita Gordon, Director



Nikita Gordon, Director of the Elmhurst Group, has worked in the Passive Fire Protection industry since 2011. She worked her way up from a Project Coordinator, Estimator, Project Manager, and as of 2021 is a Director.

Nikita has been a member of the NFCA since 2011 and completed her DRI training in 2015. In 2019, Nikita had the privilege of joining the NFCA Board of Directors and is currently the 1st Vice President.

Nikita strives to employ and empower women in the construction industry. The Elmhurst Group believes in an inclusive hiring and training model. Under Nikita's leadership, Gunnlaugson Spray-On's entire management team is women.

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Diana Kander, Entrepreneur, Innovation Consultant, Speaker, Author



A serial entrepreneur who entered the United States as a refugee from Ukraine at the age of 8, **Diana Kander** had launched and sold millions of dollars worth of products and services by her early thirties. Today, she is an innovation consultant, keynote speaker, and New York Times bestselling author whose books have been taught in over 100 universities.

As a consultant, Diana has helped create multi-billion dollar products, coached boards and executive committees on innovation best-practices, and implemented culture transformations. She brings these experiences to each and every keynote, delivering entertaining case studies and perspective shifting stories.

Diana has truly cracked the code on how Curiosity can serve as the catalyst for exponential growth, and she thrives on helping audiences understand that they can get better results if they learn how to ask better questions.

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Anthony Kerstens, POCMIA-ITF Plastering Coordinator



Anthony Kerstens has been a dedicated member of OPCMIA Local 262 in New York City since 2007, bringing 19 years of experience in the industry. Throughout his career, he has held several leadership roles within the union, including Apprenticeship Coordinator, Training Director, Executive Board Member, Business Agent, and Trustee.

Anthony has worked on numerous high-profile projects across New York City performing plastering and spray fireproofing, including various theaters, courthouses, and churches, as well as landmark projects such as One World Trade Center, the Empire State Building, and the United Nations Building.

In 2018, he joined the OPCMIA International Training Fund, continuing his commitment to advancing the trade and training the next generation of skilled union craftsmen.

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Scott MacGovern, Approvals Engineer



Scott MacGovern is an Approvals Engineer at FM Approvals. He has been a part of the Materials Group within FM Approvals for 3.5 years and has been working with firestop, Specialty Firestop Contractors, and the FCIA since joining in 2022.

Prior to joining FM Approvals, Scott worked for 5 years as a Project Manager at an HVAC contractor in the Boston area completing retrofit and design-build projects for various healthcare, educational, and pharmaceutical facilities.

Scott grew up in Rhode Island, spending summers on the water and winters on the slopes of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. He attended Roger Williams University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

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Gus Mancini, Vice President/PX



Gus Mancini is the Vice President of Healthcare & Project Executive for Gleeson Powers, Inc., based in Southboro, MA. He joined Gleeson Powers in September 2006, and since then, he has played an important role in developing Gleeson Powers' healthcare offerings, including their fire barrier management program and customized barrier management software, The Life Safety Tracker System®.

Ever since attending his first FCIA event in 2006, Gus has been a regular attendee at both the ECA and FIC conferences. He has served on several committees, including the Ad Hoc Committee, the Accreditation Committee, and is currently the Vice Chair of the Inspection Committee. Additionally, he has obtained his Designated Responsible Individual (DRI) status for both FM 4991 Approved and UL Qualified Firestop Contractor programs, is a Certified Fire & Egress Door Assembly Inspector (CFDAI), and a Certified Healthcare Constructor (CHC).

Gus is also a current member in good standing for the following organizations: Association of Medical Facility Professionals (AMFP), American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE), New England Healthcare Engineers' Society (NEHES), and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Prior to joining GPI, Gus studied at Rochester Institute of Technology where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Manufacturing Engineering. He lives in Waltham MA, with his wife, Julie, and his two kids, Chloe and Max. In his free time, he coaches wrestling and enjoys running, sports, and the outdoors.

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Alan Mcdurmon, Preconstruction Manager

Alan Mcdurmon serves as the Manager of Preconstruction Services at Performance Contracting, Inc., bringing over 25 years of experience in the firestopping industry. Since entering the field in 2001, he has developed extensive expertise in construction planning, estimating, and project management, supporting high performance solutions across complex construction environments.

Alan is an active leader within the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), where he previously served as President of the FCIA Board. In this role, he contributed to advancing industry standards, strengthening contractor education, and promoting consistent, code compliant passive fire protection practices throughout the industry.

Recognized for his clear communication and practical, solutions focused approach, Alan regularly speaks on topics including preconstruction strategy, firestop compliance, and best practices for improving life safety performance. His work reflects a commitment to developing safer buildings, supporting contractor success, and elevating the firestopping profession.

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Bill McHugh, Consultant

In his 40+ years in the construction industry, **Bill McHugh** has been involved in Associations to help improve the reliability of various construction features. He has worked at major construction products manufacturers, a specialist firestop distributor and contractor – even provided independent inspection – prior to being involved in FCIA and NFCA.

Bill participates in Building and Fire, Energy Code Development processes and has served on the ICC's 'Fire Safety' Code Development Committee and serves on the Fire Protection Features Committee at NFPA. He is a past Institute Director, Chapter President, and Region President at the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and member at Construction Specifications Canada (CSC), and is a past member of the International Accreditation Services (IAS) Board of Directors.

He served as organizer and moderator for the ASHE/TJC/FCIA/UL Passive Fire Protection Barrier Management Symposiums and has presented at many conferences, effectively educating thousands. In addition to being a published author in many magazines, he also contributes to *Life Safety Digest*.

He now serves as a consultant for FCIA and NFCA and others.

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Brice Miller, Speaker



Brice Miller has over 25 years' experience as a Building Official, Inspector and Plans Examiner. For more than 16 years, he has been a recognized speaker throughout the US on firestopping.

Brice served for 2 ½ years as the Executive Director of the International Firestop Council (IFC). He had the opportunity to develop two full day on-line Firestop training sessions for the International Code Council program called "Credential of Learning Achievement".

Brice was also instrumental in the development of two ICC Firestop publications, has served on several ICC committees and is a Past President of the Colorado Chapter of ICC.

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Gabrielle Peck, Ph.D., Technical Director



Dr. Peck obtained her Ph.D. in Fire Chemistry from the UK where her work focused on the design and development of regulatory fire tests for use in the Construction Product Regulations in the EU. Her work has focused on advancing fire testing and guidance for reaction to fire, structural and effective compartmentation passive fire systems, designing and conducting large-scale fire tests globally, and advancing education in the fire industry.

Her work has been used to inform and change building regulations in the UK, and she has worked with a variety of organizations globally, for example, on Government Enquiries, standard bodies, and with various organizations across the world to improve fire safety regulations.

Dr. Peck has recently joined the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) and Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) as Technical director- advancing the passive fire protection industry globally through advocacy, education, and training.

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C. Leanne Prybylski, Esq.

C. Leanne Prybylski is a Partner with Hendrick, Phillips, Salzman & Siegel, a construction law firm located in Atlanta, Georgia. For the past 15 years, she has been representing contractors in a variety of construction-related matters, including disputes involving claims of nonpayment, defective work, delays, and other breach of contract and tort claims. In addition to handling matters involving disputes, she prepares, reviews, and negotiates construction contracts and provides advice regarding claims avoidance.

Prior to becoming an attorney, she spent over 15 years gaining extensive practical experience in the construction industry while working for a commercial construction company in various roles, including contract administration and human resources management. She earned her undergraduate degree in Business Administration, summa cum laude, from Kennesaw State University and law degree from Georgia State University College of Law, cum laude. While in law school, she completed an externship with Justice P. Harris Hines at the Supreme Court of Georgia.

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Girish Ramachandra, Head of Partnerships

Girish Ramachandra is Head of LumberCare at Lumber, where he leads the development of Agentic AI systems designed to modernize prevailing wage and certified payroll compliance for the construction industry. With deep expertise in workforce management, enterprise SaaS, and regulatory technology, Girish focuses on transforming compliance from a reactive administrative burden into a proactive, intelligence-driven function.

His work centers on helping contractors navigate complex federal, state, and local labor requirements - including prevailing wage determinations, union rules, and certified payroll reporting - through AI-powered automation and real-time validation. By combining product strategy with applied artificial intelligence, Girish is advancing practical solutions that reduce risk, improve accuracy, and increase operational efficiency for construction finance and compliance teams.

Prior to Lumber, Girish held leadership roles across consulting and high-growth startups, including Wipfli and Iteamic, where he focused on digital transformation and enterprise innovation. He brings a builder's mindset and a compliance-first perspective to helping contractors operate with greater confidence in an increasingly regulated environment.

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Antonio “Tony” Ruiz, Apprenticeship Instructor



Antonio “Tony” Ruiz is an AWith more than 30 years of dedicated service to Plasterers Local #200, Tony Ruiz has built his career on craftsmanship, leadership, and a commitment to strengthening the future of the plastering and fireproofing trades. For 27 of those years, he served as a Foreman with Martin Bros., leading teams on a wide range of projects and developing extensive expertise in plastering and fireproofing. His work includes major, high profile projects throughout downtown Los Angeles and beyond, such as The Grand, the LAX Metro Connector, and the Tom Bradley International Terminal.

For the past eight months, he has served as a Union Instructor for Local #200, working directly with apprentices. Tony stepped into this position with one clear purpose: to make a meaningful impact on the next generation of plasterers. Sharing his knowledge, improving training standards, and helping apprentices build successful careers has become not just a job, but a passion.

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Jessica Starks, Lead Fire Protection Engineer



Jessica Starks is a Lead Fire Protection Engineer at Hilti with nearly eight years of experience and a specialization in curtain wall firestop applications. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology from Oklahoma State University and brings a strong technical foundation to the evaluation and coordination of fire-resistive joint systems at the slab edge interface.

Jessica has experience supporting both unitized and stick-built curtain wall construction, as well as modular projects where sequencing and coordination are critical to successful firestopping installation. She regularly collaborates with architects, façade consultants, contractors, and manufacturers to develop practical, code-compliant solutions that align design intent with field execution.

As a technical presenter, Jessica brings a field-informed perspective to perimeter fire containment challenges, bridging the gap between design intent, code requirements, and real-world installation constraints.

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Mark St. Onge, Senior Field Engineer, Fire Protection Specialist

Mark St. Onge has over 20 years of experience within the construction industry.

Mark served in the US Air Force building air bases across the world. Upon leaving the military, he continued to serve while joining the fire service in structural & wildland firefighting and as an EMT. Utilizing his knowledge of construction and fire, Mr. St. Onge expanded into the Special Inspection of building construction.

Mr. St. Onge is the Lead Field Engineer for the UL Firestop Special Inspection program. He is responsible for performing a variety of field inspections and for training new inspectors internally within UL.

Mr. St. Onge also provides education on firestop and fire rated construction to municipalities and code officials across the nation on behalf of UL.

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Steve Tasco, Coordinator/Instructor

Steve Tasco has more than 35 years in the plastering industry and currently serves as a Coordinator and Instructor for the Southern California Plastering Institute. A union member for over 20 years, he previously worked with Local 797 in Las Vegas and is now a proud member of Local 200. His project portfolio includes major Las Vegas developments such as the Aria Resort & Casino, Encore - where he served as Plaster Foreman, World Market Center, Town Square, Treasure Island, and The Palazzo. He brings extensive field expertise and a strong commitment to training the next generation of plasterers.

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Matt Verderamo, Division Vice President, Partner

Matt Verderamo, a seasoned VP of Preconstruction & Sales with a Master's Degree in Construction Management, empowers contracting firms as a Division Vice President at Well Built.

His engaging speaking style and social media content has fostered a collaborative community of industry leaders driving collective progress.

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Rich Walke, Technical Director



Rich Walke is the Technical Director of Creative Technology Inc., providing consulting and training services for the fire protection and code enforcement communities, including The McHugh Company and the Firestop Contractors International Association.

Previously, Rich had been employed by UL for 43 years, focusing on fire-resistance-rated construction and the protection of breaches in those assemblies. During that time, Rich was involved in testing, standards development, code development, and providing technical assistance and training to architects, engineers, contractors and code officials.

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Steve Winston, President



Steve Winston was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, and graduated from Elon College in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. During his four years at Elon, he played collegiate baseball, including a memorable trip to the 1989 NAIA College World Series in Lewiston, Idaho.

Shortly after graduating in May 1992, Steve began his career in the fireproofing industry as a field sprayer for a family owned company in Central Virginia. He grew with the company over the years, stepping into the role of Vice President in 2007 and later taking over operations as Senior Vice President in 2010.

Over the course of his career, he has been involved in more than 1,000 fireproofing projects, developing deep experience across the full scope of the trade. His current responsibilities include estimating, sales, project management, submittals, and contract administration, while remaining strongly connected to field operations, scheduling, and site logistics.

Steve is passionate about teaching the craft of fireproofing installation and takes pride in training others to apply materials safely, cleanly, and efficiently while maintaining the highest standards of quality control. He firmly believes in leading by example and holds himself to the same expectations he set for those in the field.

Steve joined the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) in 2002 and has served as a contractor member, board member, and now as President.

Outside of work, he enjoys spending time outdoors - especially golfing and fishing.

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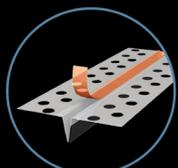
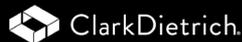
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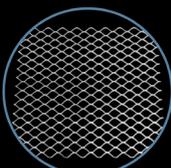
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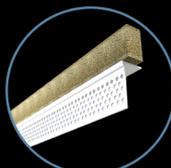
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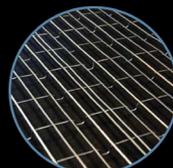
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