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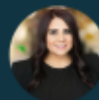
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*"Our GCs love the real-time COR
Logs and have requested that
we use Clearstory on other
projects"*



Gabrielle Lucatero
General Manager
Accurate Firestop

NFCA/FCIA PASFIPRO '25 IN MONTREAL WAS A BIG SUCCESS

Over 180 people, great speakers, solutions found for industry issues, and much more. NFCA partnered again with the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) to bring education with slides in English and French to Canada.

Both the NFCA and FCIA Canada Committees worked with staff to build a great program. Included in the audience were code/fire officials, architects and many other key influences in Quebec.



NFPA, ICC, ASTM & FREE VIEWING ONLINE

NFPA, ICC, ASTM & FREE Viewing Online – Did you know that the codes and standards are developed by not-for-profit organizations and not government? Government does not get involved until the codes are adopted in whole, or with modifications, by a municipality.

For several years, the NFPA 1, 101, 5000 and other standards have been available online for free – but without cut and paste capability, nor a PDF on a computer or tablet.

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (IBC)

The documents can be found at [ICC's code site](#), where viewing is by the document year published. For the 2024 version, check out this [link](#). The code version and year in effect at time of permit is what the building is regulated under. Alterations might change the effective code to a current date, depending on the level of alteration.

NFPA DOCUMENTS

For NFPA users need to visit each individual standard at the [NFPA list of codes and standards page](#). For [NFPA 101](#), visit this [link](#), scroll down, to see the free access.

INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (IFC)

The International Fire Code, once adopted by a municipality, is retroactive. Passive structural fire-resistance rated building elements and assemblies are now listed in section 708 of the 2024 IFC.

ASTM STANDARDS

ASTM has a specific page called the [ASTM Reading Room](#), where standards are found and viewed. In all cases, it is important to be sure you are viewing the standard referenced in the code, and that the code has not been modified during adoption in the jurisdiction the building is located.

NFCA AT ICC EXPO, CODE HEARINGS

From October 19-30, NFCA's Technical Director Bill McHugh, Consultant to NFCA Rich Walke, will travel to Cleveland, OH USA to represent the fireproofing industry at the Expo where we'll see many buildings officials, fire marshals, and present code proposals too.

Code concepts include fireproofing roofs where they are occupiable on single and multi-story buildings, high rise buildings of all types. We're also advocating for higher fire-resistance ratings in parking garages – under residential or any other occupancy.

FIREPROOFING INSPECTION AGENCY APPROVAL & QUALIFICATION

The International Building Code (IBC) Chapter 17 specifies a concept called 'special inspection'. Special inspection is when the code states a specialized inspection agency employing inspectors be responsible for reviewing work due to importance to the structure and or complexity in the inspection. Fireproofing is one of the 18+ construction disciplines included in special inspection, and has been for decades prior to the IBC's first publication in 2000. Fireproofing is included in section 1705.

For special inspection, there are two IBC definitions that are important to know. The first is 'approved'. The word approved means approved by the building official. The second, 'approved agency' is the entity that has been approved by the building official. It's an agency that can be a sole proprietor to a large organization.

Qualifications for the special inspection agency that employs inspectors include:

1703.1.1 Independence. An *approved agency* shall be objective, competent and independent from the contractor responsible for the work being inspected. The agency shall disclose to the *building official* and the *registered design professional in responsible charge* possible conflicts of interest so that objectivity can be confirmed.

1703.1.2 Equipment. An *approved agency* shall have adequate equipment to perform required tests. The equipment shall be periodically calibrated.

1703.1.3 Personnel. An *approved agency* shall employ experienced personnel educated in conducting, supervising and evaluating tests and special inspections.

[IBC 2024 1703.1, 1703.2, 1703.3]



Note that the company has to be objective, competent and independent from the contractor installing fireproofing. That means the manufacturer or supplier are not supposed to perform this inspection, nor the distributor, manufacturer's representative. The agency needs equipment to perform inspections. And, the personnel need to be educated as well.

The individual inspectors need to be approved, according to IBC's 1704.2.1.

1704.2.1 Special inspector qualifications. Prior to the start of the construction, the *approved agencies* shall provide written documentation to the *building official* demonstrating the competence and relevant experience or training of the *special inspectors* who will perform the *special inspections* and tests during construction. Experience or training shall be considered to be relevant where the documented experience or training is related in complexity to the same type of *special inspection* or testing activities for projects of similar complexity and material qualities. These qualifications are in addition to qualifications specified in other sections of this code.

The registered *design professional* in responsible charge and engineers of record involved in the design of the project are permitted to act as an *approved agency* and their personnel are permitted to act as *special inspectors* for the work designed by them, provided they qualify as *special inspectors*.

Thank You
NFCA SILVER
MANUFACTURER
MEMBERS



FIREPROOFING INSPECTION AGENCY APPROVAL & QUALIFICATION (CONTINUED)

Key points from this are that the inspector has to be competent and document relevant experience in whatever construction discipline they are inspecting – in this case, fireproofing. The experience has to be comparable as well.

That means if agency inspectors have experience in small fireproofing projects, they might not be qualified to handle a high-rise building, industrial or institutional fireproofing inspection. Also, note that just because a person is a design professional, the intent is that relevant experience and competence in fireproofing is still required.

NFCA's Fireproofing Education and Exams are a great way for inspection agencies to prove competence to the approver, the local building official.

Do you know a special inspector that should get educated? Refer them to NFCA to get the [NFCA Handbook of Accepted Fireproofing Knowledge](#).



Encourage them to take the [NFCA Fireproofing Exams](#) even if they have passed the ICC's Fireproofing Exam. NFCA's adds tons of value to the inspection agency inspector because it's about fireproofing, by fireproofing people.

While the National Building Code of Canada does not have a code requirement to inspect fireproofing, we know that it is sometimes specified. NFCA proposed, and will propose again, adding independent, 3rd party inspection to the NBCC. It's the right thing to do.

ASTM IFRM FIREPROOFING INSPECTION STANDARD PASSES, SFRM, BOARDS/WRAPPS NEXT

GCP's Phil Mancuso has been the task group chair for this effort for some time, working with NFCA staff and volunteers on NEW ASTM SFRM and IFRM inspection standards. 3M's Samantha Peterson is task group chair and also subcommittee chair on the Boards/Wrap Fireproofing Inspection Standards.

Recent ballot results show that the proposed NEW STANDARD Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Intumescent Fire Resistive Material passed at Main Committee. It will become a new standard.

There are two negatives for the PROPOSED NEW STANDARD Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Materials and two negatives for the PROPOSED NEW STANDARD Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Board and Wrap Type Fireproofing Materials.

The ASTM Main Committee E06, Subcommittee 21, Task Group is meeting in Atlanta, October 7. We hope to resolve the negatives and move forward quickly.



ADVANCING STANDARDS
TRANSFORMING MARKETS

The purpose of the standards is to be able to use the consensus body at ASTM for ongoing maintenance of the standards. ASTM's process to changes standards takes place in an ongoing fashion rather than every three years or more.

NFCA's Technical Standards Committee will meet as soon as the standards are published to review, and get ready for proposed changes to improve fire and life safety through structural fireproofing protection in buildings. And, NFCA's staff and our manufacturer partners will be on hand at ASTM to bring the field voice to fireproofing standards development processes!

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.

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

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

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

NFCA & OSHA'S SAFETY TIPS

The US Department of Labor promotes safety tips frequently. The lithium-ion battery safety tips hit home at NFCA. Why? NFCA's code proposal G66-25 increases fire-resistance ratings in parking garages due to both battery powered and internal combustion engine vehicles. Both power methods have plastics used in greater quantity than seen in older vehicles. The increased petroleum fuel plus the potential thermal runaway of a lithium-ion battery, can increase risk in structures. Even small tools, e-bikes, e-scooter, e-mobility device charging gone wrong can bring big fires in places where we live, work, blocking exits if we are not careful.

Check out OSHA's document, '[Using lithium-ion batteries safely](#)'. Also visit UL Research Institutes' Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) pages on [lithium-ion battery safety](#). The FSRI has very graphic videos about charging lithium-ion batteries, and what those fires look like.

NFCA COMMENTING ON AISC 360

The American Institute of Steel Construction is an organization focused on being a technical institute. Members are structural steel industry structural steel fabricators, engineers, architects and the construction industry at large.

AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings (AISC 360) is available for public review and comment. NFCA will be commenting that the document refers to prescriptive methods (fire-testing) first. Why? That's how fire-resistance is determined by the building codes. Performance methods require comparing to the prescriptive method performance – for a safe building.

NFCA BOARD MEETING

The NFCA Board of Directors recently convened to review ongoing initiatives and set priorities for the months ahead. Key topics included strengthening member engagement, advancing industry education, and planning for upcoming NFCA events.

The Board remains committed to ensuring NFCA continues to be the leading voice for fireproofing contractors nationwide.



Get Out There: How to Drive Success Through Connections (Without Making It Weird)

By Trisha Miltimore - Keynote Speaker & Worklife Wellness Advocate

I remember showing up at a networking event 20 years ago, palms sweaty and smile tight. I was determined to “make connections” but secretly just hoping the appetizer table would save me from awkward small talk.

I didn’t grow up in boardrooms or on the golf course. I grew up in a family of entrepreneurs. My parents ran their own business, and I learned early what it looked like to build something from the ground up. It was work. Real work. Inventory, invoices, late nights, early mornings. My parents were brave and scrappy, and I inherited that same energy. But what I didn’t inherit was a playbook for how to walk into a room and “network.”

At the time, I thought networking was mostly about trying to sound smart or handing out business cards like candy. It felt inauthentic. And, frankly, hard. No fun!

Since then, via building my own training company, I’ve learned a lot. Namely, that connection drives opportunity. In your work, in your leadership, in your growth—being able to connect with others in real, human ways is what moves the needle. But here’s the kicker: networking doesn’t have to be awkward, overly formal, or salesy. Especially not in industries like this, where most of us value trust, clarity, and no-BS conversations.

Whether you own your company or work for someone else, these three simple tools can help you connect with confidence and ease.

Ask better questions

The fastest way to stop dreading networking is to take the spotlight off yourself. People often stress about what to say, how to sound impressive, or whether they’ll come across the right way. But what really works? Asking a solid question.

Go beyond the typical “What do you do?” and try something more engaging. For example:
What kind of projects are you working on right now?
What’s your favourite part of your job?
What’s something you wish more people understood about your industry?

These questions make people stop and think. They feel fresh. And best of all, they invite people to talk about something they care about. You’re not “networking,” you’re just having a conversation with purpose.

You don’t have to be the most extroverted person in the room. You just have to be curious.

Collect stories

This is one of my favourite mindset shifts. Instead of thinking, “What should I say?” think, “What can I learn?”

When I walk into a room, I’m in story-collection mode—mining real stories from real people.

Experiences, lessons, quirky project wins, memorable moments on job sites. These are the things that help us connect, lead, and learn.

Collecting stories does a few things. First, it gives you great content for your own toolbox. Second, it makes you a better listener. And third, it shows people you’re interested in them, not just what they can do for you.

This mindset works whether you’re at a big industry conference or chatting with a fellow contractor at the gas station.

Share your Triple W

When someone asks “What do you do?” most people either freeze, ramble, or default to a vague, forgettable answer.

That’s where the Triple W Formula comes in.

It’s a simple framework to help you feel more confident and clear when introducing yourself or talking about your work.

Who you are. What you do. Why it matters.

Here’s an example.

I’m Trisha. I’m a keynote speaker and leadership consultant. I help teams and leaders communicate with more clarity, confidence, and less burnout—because when people feel heard, they lead better. That’s it. No buzzwords, no scripts. Just clarity.

Your Triple W can be casual.

Get Out There: How to Drive Success Through Connections (Without Making It Weird) Continued...

It can change depending on who you're talking to. But if you prep it ahead of time, you'll never feel stuck again when someone turns to you and says, "So, what do you do?"

And that's the whole point—intentional communication creates confidence.

Final thoughts

You don't need a stack of business cards or a 10-minute elevator pitch to be good at networking. You just need a mindset that focuses on connecting, not performing.

Ask real questions. Collect great stories. Share your Triple W.

When you do that consistently, you'll find the connections that matter—and you'll likely help someone else feel more comfortable in the process. And here's the real win: every time you show up and speak up, you're creating momentum. For your business. For your leadership. For your growth. Connections = Opportunity

About the Author

Trisha Miltimore is a keynote speaker, Certified Management Consultant, and WorkLife Wellness Activator. She works with leaders and business owners across Canada to boost team communication, engagement, and leadership clarity. Through high-impact **keynotes, interactive workshops, and coaching for individuals and teams**, Trisha helps organizations create cultures where people—and performance—can thrive.

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🎤 Speaker Reel: <https://youtu.be/9j37AGXfx7Y?si=DQ29r5BEU89g-Kq2>



NFCA'S 2026 WEEK OF LEARNING...OR IS IT?

Mark your calendars now for 2026's NFCA Week of Learning - or wait...is it the Week of Learning or something even bigger and better that will blow your mind? Yep, definitely the latter.

Block out the week of March 30-April 3 for a really, REALLY big event. Stay tuned for details coming soon!

Thinking of becoming a NFCA Accredited Contractor? You'll need a Designated Responsible Individual (DRI) that has experience in fireproofing and passes the NFCA SFRM, IFRM or both SFRM and IFRM Fireproofing Exams.

MEET OUR NEW TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, DR. GABBY PECK, PHD

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Gabby Peck (PhD) has joined NFCA as our new Technical Director. Gabby brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we're excited to welcome her to the team.

As she gets up to speed in her new role, she'll be supported by Bill McHugh, Rich Walke, and Abhishek Chhabra, ensuring a smooth transition and strong collaboration across our technical initiatives.

Please join us in giving Gabby a warm welcome to the NFCA! You can reach her at gabbyp@NFCA-online.org

Together with Dr. Peck, the NFCA team looks forward to continuing to serve our members and advance the firestop industry.



NFCA PARTNERS!

Have you heard? NFCA is traveling all over to spread the word on Passive Fire Protection. 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 tradeshow coming up!

- **ICC Annual Conference & Expo** – October 19–20, 2025 | Cleveland, OH

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.

- **Fire Safe Build India (FSBI)** – December 4-6, 2025

NFCA travels to India for FSBI - India's Only Curated Show for Fire Protection. With the rising frequency of fire-related incidents, the importance of adopting effective and advanced fire safety measures has become more critical than ever and NFCA can't wait to be a part of the discussion.



NEW MEMBER WELCOME



Please help us in welcoming our newest NFCA Members:

Spectrum Painting & Restorations Ltd - **Contractor Member**

Hartman Walsh Painting Company - **Contractor Member**

Bayview Caulking Inc - **Contractor Member**

F J Construction Specialties Ltd. - **Contractor Member**