NFCA Virtual Event Speakers

Day 1 - Sept. 22

NFCA Leadership & Special Presentations by:

Martin Rodriguez
NFCA President
Martin Bros.

Bill McHugh
Executive Director
NFCA

Howard Towler
NFCA Director Emeritus
ACME Fireproofing

Ken Simonson, Chief Economist,
The Associated General Contractors of America
Ken.simonson@agc.org

Ken Simonson has been chief economist for AGC, the leading trade association for the construction industry, since 2001. He has more than 40 years of experience analyzing, advocating and communicating about economic and tax issues. Among his outside activities, he advises the Census Bureau on overhauling its construction data. He is a Fellow and past president of the National Association for Business Economics, and he is co-director of the Tax Economists Forum, a professional meeting group he co-founded in 1982. Ken has a BA in economics from the University of Chicago, and an MA in economics from Northwestern University.
Curt Baske, Field Technical Manager, GCP Applied Technologies
Curt.baske@gcpat.com
Curt has almost 40 years experience in the fireproofing trade and has worked for large fireproofing companies in the Chicago market, at every level in the field. Superintendent for Spray Insulations and also Midwest Fireproofing, before being recruited by GCP Applied Technologies. Curt now handles regions of the Eastern U.S and Canada.

Rich Walke, Technical Director, Creative Technology Inc.
RichWalke61@gmail.com
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 National Fireproofing Contractors 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, engineer, contractors and code officials.

NFCA Sponsor’s Forum Presentations from:

Carol Schary, President
Nathan Kimmel Company
Rick Mihevc
Director of Fireproofing
GCP Applied Technologies
Allen Mills, President
Hy-Flex Corporation
Sean Canfield, National Accounts Manager/Regional Manager
Isolatek International
Bryce Gapinski, Product Manager
GRACO
Day 2 - Sept. 23

Karen Layng, President and Founder, M.A.I.T. Co.
Klayng@mait-co.com
M.A.I.T. Co. serves as a strategic partner in the construction, manufacturing, energy and engineering industries. Karen’s thirty plus years’ of legal expertise in these industries includes representing public and major private companies in complex commercial disputes, internal criminal and civil ethical and fraud investigations including as a Shareholder and Chair of the international law firm, Vedder Price’s, litigation and corporate practice areas and as a corporate Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel of a national mechanical, industrial process piping contractor. This experience allows her to uniquely review claims handling protocols and to develop client compliance programs on all corporate enterprise risks, including exposure ranging from cyber breaches to ethical lapses and serving on and counseling Boards on governance matters.

Sean Canfield, National Accounts Manager/Regional Mgr, Isolatek International
scanfield@isolatek.com
Sean Canfield joined Isolatek International in 1997 and has held various roles within the organization, including Technical Analyst, Technical Sales Representative, and Product Manager for Spray-Applied, Intumescent, and Rigid Board Fireproofing products. Currently, he holds the position of National Accounts Manager/Regional Manager, providing guidance and education to the architectural and design community for commercial projects requiring all types of structural steel fireproofing products in addition to sales management responsibilities for the northern tier of the United States.

John Dalton, Technical Service Manager, Fire Protection Products,
GCP Applied Technologies, John.A.Dalton@gcpat.com
John has been with GCP Applied Technologies since 1999. He spent 8 years in Research & Development – Concrete & Cement Admixtures / Fibers / Fire Protection; and the last 12 years as the Technical Service Manager. John holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry & Mathematics, National University of Ireland, Maynooth; and a Graduate Degree in Chemical Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland. John serves as Task Group Chair of ASTM E6.21 – Standards related to Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Material and as NFPA 502 Principal Committee Member, Fire Protection of Tunnels & Highways.
George M. Guanci, CSI, CDT, Product Development Manager, The Sherwin Williams Company, George.M.Guanci@Sherwin.com
George has 30+ years experience in the construction industry with the better part of those years in the fireproofing industry. He has extensive experience in both petrochemical and commercial fireproofing; and is experienced and knowledgeable in UL listings and requirements, international fireproofing standards and the development of fireproofing specifications. George was among the first to promote intumescent epoxy fireproofing technology in the hydrocarbon processing industry. George is a member of CSI, NACE and NFPA and holds a B. A. from Merrimack College and an M. A. from Northeastern University.

Ernst Toussaint, PE, Senior Steel Protection Engineer Manager, Hilti, Ernst.Toussaint@Hilti.com
Ernst has over 17 years of experience in the coating industry and has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Ernst is a NACE Level III Certified Coatings Inspector. He also holds the prestigious SSPC Protective Coating Specialist and Master Coating Inspector Certifications.

Sean Younger, Senior Market Manager Fireproofing, Carboline Company, syounger@carboline.com
Sean is involved in fireproofing product line management, product testing and new product development. He has been involved in the development, testing and application of fireproofing products since 2000. He has over 15 years of technical experience with both cementitious and intumescent fireproofing materials while working with Nu-Chem, Inc. and the Carboline Company. Sean has provided extensive field support for many domestic and international fireproofing projects around the world.

Charlie Carter, President, American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), Carter@aisc.com
With AISC since 1991, Charlie led all AISC technical activities as Vice President and Chief Structural Engineer. Charlie received Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in architectural engineering from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in civil and architectural engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is a licensed structural engineer and professional engineer in Illinois.

NFCA Sponsor's Forum Presentations from:
Day 3 - Sept. 24

Kevin L. Dougherty, Consultant, Speaker, Author
salesacademy@verizon.net
Kevin L. Dougherty has been speaking to the construction industry for over 30 years and has taught thousands of people in various seminars. His client base ranges from family-owned businesses to corporate conglomerates. In addition to speaking and writing articles, Kevin has served as sales manager, project manager, operations manager, and corporate trainer for a multimillion-dollar specialty services contractor. Kevin has also been a frequent speaker for various SMACNA, MCAA, MSCA, NECA, SMART, U.A. PHCC, ISA SBA, and other trade associations.

Ruben Sandoval Jr., Business Manager, Field Engineering Group, UL
Ruben.Sandovaljr@ul.com
Ruben joined UL as a Field Engineer in 2000. Ruben has over 20 years of experience in safety engineering and 6 years of experience in the fire and life safety arena. Under Ruben’s leadership the fire and life safety arena has seen the development of UL’s Master Audit Certificate of Compliance (MACC), UL Fire Door Inspection program, and the launch of UL’s Special Inspection of Firestop program. Ruben received his
the launch of UL’s Special Inspection of Firestop program.

José received his Bachelor’s degree in Telecommunications Engineering in 1999. He is currently completing his MBA.

José L. Torero, Professor Civil Engineering, University College London
jtorerocullen@gmail.com
José works in the fields of safety, environmental remediation and sanitation where he specializes in complex environments such as developing nations, complex urban environments, novel architectures, critical infrastructure, aircraft and spacecraft. José is a Chartered Engineer (UK), a Registered Professional Engineer in Queensland, a fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (USA) and the Institution of Fire Engineers (UK). José joined University College London in 2018 after being the John L. Bryan Chair at the University of Maryland.

NFCA Sponsor’s Forum Presentations from:

Brett Littlefield, Steel Protection Specialist Manager, Hilti
Jesse Downs, Marketing Sales Manager, Strong Manufacturing
Matt Auchy, Marketing Sales Manager, Albi Protective Coatings

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