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NFCA WEEK OF LEARNING – A DOWN HOME HIT

Earlier this month, Oklahoma City welcomed the NFCA Week of Learning, and we're happy to report that WoL '24 was a great experience for NFCA LIVE and VIRTUAL attendees alike.

A technology program kicked things off, followed by a two-hour networking reception with Exhibitors. This gave attendees a chance to visit with WoL exhibitors, learn about new product offerings, and make those integral connections required for success. Thursday and Friday's programs brought a bevy of interesting topics, starting with back-to-back safety sessions with experts providing great insights, and a construction economy report, building and fire code proposal review, standards development actions, AI, and so much more. Add in the exhibits, education for fireproofing exams, and Annual Awards Dinner, and it's easy to see why attendance at the annual Conference is always so strong.

Don't miss the 2025 NFCA Week of Learning at the Omni Interlocken, Denver area (Broomfield) CO, April 4th, 2025.



NFCA HEADS TO ICC

NFCA's Bill McHugh and Rich Walke are headed to the International Code Council's Code Development Hearings in Orlando, FL this April 6th-16th. They'll be representing NFCA and working on NFCA's proposals (and others) for the 2027 versions of the International Fire Code and International Building Code. NFCA's Technical Code Committee Meetings have brought the industry together to plan strategies, and much more.

Watch for a full report in May.



NFCA RETIRED MEMBER PASSES

Condolences for the family of Daryl Orlich, retired Albi Fireproofing representative, for many years.

From Albi's LinkedIn Post, "Daryl was a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and guidance.

His unwavering commitment to excellence and his compassionate nature made him not just a colleague, but a true friend."

Daryl will be missed by family and friends, and of course, by NFCA.



NFCA ATTENDS AWCI ANNUAL CONVENTION

This month, NFCA attended the Construction Technology Council (AWCI-CTC) meeting in Orlando, FL at AWCI's Build '24 Convention & Expo. NFCA was honored to be part of the agenda for the event.

Bill McHugh's presentation was aimed at gypsum walls and ceilings industry-national, state and regional - in one place, sharing NFCA's accomplishments the past 20 years.

AWCI's Construction Technology Council Meeting Chairs.



NFCA & THE ASTM STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Code and Standards development is like playing chess, one move every 6 months, which sometimes can mean more than 10 years to get a Standard developed. Then, add another three (3) or more years to get a Standard required by the Building Codes.

For the past several years, you've seen short updates on the new ASTM Fireproofing Inspection Standards. With the ASTM Fireproofing Standards, we're finally at the Main Committee vote – the final step – before a Standard gets published.

- ASTM WK – SFRM Fireproofing Inspection – Spray Fire-Resistive Materials – cementitious and gypsum gypsum-based products, used as part of a listing.

- ASTM WK – IFRM Fireproofing Inspection – This includes latex-, epoxy-, and solvent solvent-based fireproofing, all now known as Intumescent Fire-Resistive Materials, used as part of a listing.

- ASTM WK – Board and Wrap Fireproofing Inspection, including rock mineral wool boards, calcium silicate boards, endothermic wraps, and ceramic fiber wraps, used as part of a listing for only structural fire-resistance.

These three ASTM standards are a consensus of the fireproofing industry, manufacturers, contractors, and more. They provide clear guidance for fireproofing Inspection Agencies to inspect contractor's work for fire and life safety.



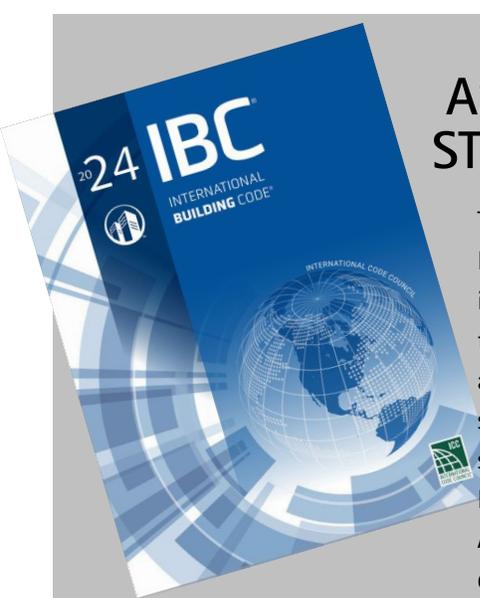
NFCA MEMBER NEWS

Isolatek International recently announced the successful acquisition of certain assets of Albi Protective Coatings from StanChem Resins March 27. We look forward to seeing the value of this combination as NFCA Members.

NFCA AT THE UL & ULC-STP

NFCA is a voting member on both the UL 263 and CAN/ULC-S101 Standards Technical Panels (STP). NFCA submitted several proposals to the ULC STP for vetting and possible inclusion. Many thanks to Consultant to NFCA Rich Walke for the ideas, concepts, and submissions.





ASTM INSPECTION STANDARDS IN IBC

The current IBC Chapter 17, Special Inspection, mandates special inspection of fireproofing. Only two technologies are referenced, SFRM and IFRM. The SFRM inspection section is very prescriptive, with no standard Standard referenced. , while IFRM references the AWCI 12b. AWCI 12b is not a true consensus document, hence the new ASTM Inspection Standards.

NFCA is the proponent for three proposals to add these new standards Standards to the IBC. Once in the IBC, the idea is to improve the standards Standards for better fire and life safety in buildings. NFCA built an education program for fireproofing inspectors, in 2009, and continues to improve on the program. Look for it to be promoted widely to improve inspection and (eventual) installation quality worldwide.

One thing to note, Board and Wrap fireproofing are not mandated by name in Chapter 17 of the IBC; however, the charging language states that Board and Wrap needs inspection. Unfortunately, Specifiers and others miss this a lot. See section 1705.1.1, Special cases, where the following is stated:

1705.1.1 Special cases. *Special inspections* and tests shall be required for proposed work that is, in the opinion of the *building official*, unusual in its nature, such as, but not limited to, the following examples:

1. Construction materials and systems that are alternatives to materials and systems prescribed by this code.
2. Unusual design applications of materials described in this code.
3. Materials and systems required to be installed in accordance with additional manufacturer's instructions that prescribe requirements not contained in this code or in standards referenced by this code. [IBC 2024, 1705.1.1]

NFCA SAFETY CORNER

What's the first thing Bill McHugh does upon starting a meeting or visiting a hotel or new building of some kind? Say it with us, "Where are the EXITS, and what's the plan for emergencies?"

The US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [Emergency Exit Fact Sheet](#) on exit routes provides guidance to contractors and fireproofing workers about exit routes. There even is an [Evacuation Plan and Procedures e-Tool](#) from OSHA as well.

For our Canada friends, a Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) [document on Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace](#) outlines elements of an emergency management program.

Follow Bill's lead...know your emergency exits!

NFCA & Air Barriers

The National Fireproofing Contractors Association continues to hear from other industries about how their materials affect fire-resistance-ratings. NFCA's response? Has it been fire-tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or UL263, CAN/ULC-S101 with both fireproofing and air barrier materials in the furnace??

[Check out this new resource from NFCA.](#)

All New NFCA Information Bulletins

Fire Testing for horizontal assemblies needs to take place in a [Full-Scale Furnace](#), (about 12' x 17'), with a [Load Applied](#) as specified in ASTM E119/UL 263.

Want to learn more? [Check out the NFCA Information Bulletins online!](#)

REGISTER FOR THE APRIL WEBINAR!

'The Top 10 Employment Law Mistakes Most Commonly Made by Fireproofing Contractors (and How to Avoid Them!)

With Philip J. Siegel, Esq. (Hendrick, Phillips, Salzman & Siegal, P.C.)

Tuesday, April 23, 1 pm CDT

REGISTER NOW



Fireproofing Question? We don't promise to have all the answers, but do provide members with resources they can use to make decisions. Feel free to email us when you get stumped.

QUESTIONS? Contact Lissette at Lissettek@cmservices.com
708- 717-1866

NEW NFCA SUPPORT STAFF

For the past 4 years, Kriston Ewoldt has been with us supporting Bill McHugh, and the NFCA Board, Members, and Committees – and doing it quite well. We appreciated having her talents (and great personality). As of December 31, 2023, she has decided to take time for herself and family.

We're happy to announce a new NFCA team to service NFCA Members and Committees – Replacing Kriston is the team of Lindsey Dutkiewicz, Cathy Burns, and Lissette Keslinke to service NFCA Members and Committees. (Those who attended the NFCA Week of Learning were lucky enough to meet the "newbies".) While new to NFCA, Lindsey and Cathy have worked with Bill McHugh for 10 years.

Reach out and say hi when you get a chance!!



Thank you

NFCA SILVER
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