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Barrier Management for Compliance in Healthcare Facilities

Course Number: BMP-25

Friday, June 6th 10:30am-11:00am

Learning Units: 1 LU/HSW

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About the Presenter



John Zalepka

Director of Training & Industry Engagements, Specified Technologies Inc.

- Over a decade of experience in firestopping, specification support, and industry education
- · Leads STI's accredited training programs, reaching 20,000+ professionals annually
- Regular speaker at national events including AIA, CSI, and ASHE conferences
- Chair of the Communication/Education Committee for the International Firestop Council
- Developed dozens of AIA-approved courses focused on life-safety and code compliance
- Passionate about helping architects reduce liability and design for performance

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Course / Learning Objectives

- Recognize the importance of a preconstruction risk assessment and the IBC special inspection for firestopping requirement prior to construction.
- Discuss the process used to ensure fire and smoke rated barrier compliance during safety inspection commissioning.
- Differentiate between common fire protection and life safety code sections in the IBC (Division 7) and NFPA 101.
- Discuss procedures that can be implemented to assist with fire and smoke barrier compliance during the preconstruction stage.
- Summarize what a solid Standard Operating Practice (SOP) for passive fire protection should consist of.
- Identify tools, best practices and procedures to achieve life safety code compliance in fire, smoke, and acoustical assemblies during all phases of the buildings life cycle.

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Why do we need barriers in healthcare facilities?



<u>Defend-in-Place Fire Strategy (NFPA 101)</u>

- Fire Containment: Limits the spread of flames, protecting patients and staff.
- Smoke Control: Prevents toxic smoke from spreading, ensuring safer egress.

Patient Privacy (HIPAA)

• **Sound Attenuation**: Reduces noise transmission, protecting patient privacy and promoting a healing environment.

Air Pressure Management (NFPA 99 / ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170)

 Helps control airflow in critical spaces like operating rooms (positive) and isolation rooms (negative), reducing contamination risks.





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Key Principles of Balanced Fire Protection

1. Early Detection

- · Smoke, Heat, and CO Detectors
- Fire Alarm and Monitoring Systems

2. Active Suppression

- · Sprinkler Systems
- · Portable Fire Extinguishers

3. Passive Containment

- · Compartmentalization
- · Fire-Rated Walls & Floors
- · Smoke Barriers & Partitions
- · Doors, Windows, Dampers, etc.
- · Firestop Systems



Containment in construction

1st layer: The Room

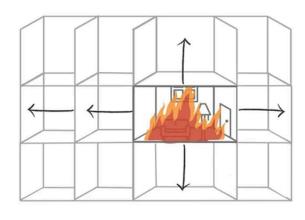
2nd layer: Smoke Compartments

3rd layer: Floors

4th layer: Building Components

5th layer: Exits





Compartmentation is critical for a successful defend-in-place strategy

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Code Requirements

Building Design & Construction

- IBC (International Building Code)
- Local/Regional Code



Ongoing Facility Operations

- NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code)
- NFPA 99 (Healthcare Facilities Code)



CMS

Inspections & Compliance

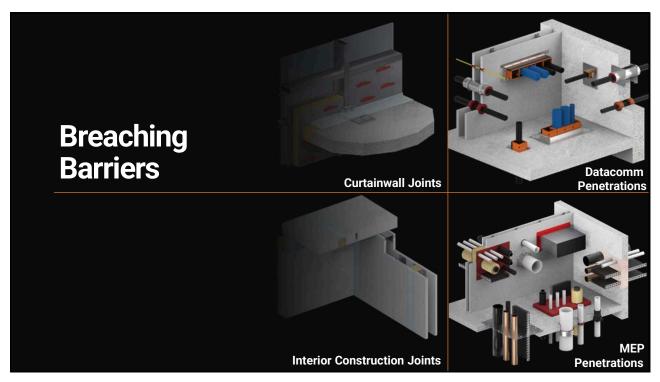
- CMS (AHJ)
- TJC, HFAP, DNV (Accrediting Orgs.)







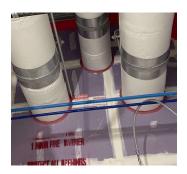






What is firestopping?

The process of sealing openings around penetrating items or in construction joints to restore hourly fire resistance ratings







A barrier with unsealed openings has been compromised

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Recognized and accredited third-party test facilities (US)

Tests conducted per ASTM & UL code-required standards



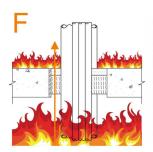




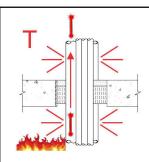
"Nationally recognized testing laboratories" are of equal status in regulations (code acceptance)

Each test lab publishes its own listing directory



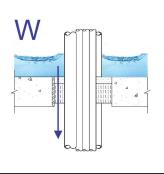


The time-period that the through-penetration firestop system limits the spread of fire through the penetration when tested in accordance with ASTM E 814 or UL1479.

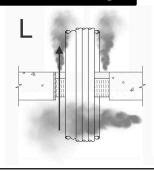


The time it takes for a single point on the non-fire side to reach 325°F over the initial starting temperature (e.g. 400°F where the ambient temperature was 75°F)

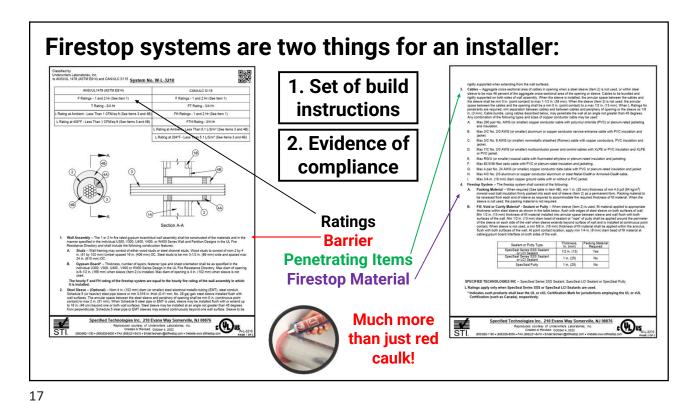
Firestop System Ratings



- Quantifiably measures resistance of a firestop product to water in buildings
- 3 feet of head pressure is applied to the seal for 72 hours to determine if the seal is "water-tight"
- Intended to address "washout" during construction



- 714.4.4 Penetrations in **smoke barriers**.
- Systems for penetrations in smoke barriers must be tested for air leakage per UL 1479.
- L Rating shall not exceed:
 - 5 cfm/sf of opening for each firestop system
 - Total of 50 cfm for any 100 sf of wall or floor area





Barrier Management Program



Identifies:

- All fire-rated and non-rated assemblies
- All penetrant types
- · All joint types



Sets expectations for:

- Vendors
- Contractors
- Facility maintenance personnel

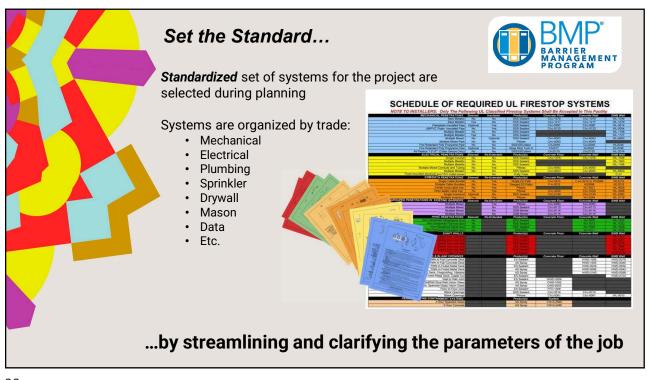


Goals:

- Meet regulatory compliance
- Exhibit a proactive approach to inspectors
- · Promote proper installations
- · Prevent property loss
- Life-Safety
- · Reduce annual outlay of capital



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Firestop considerations in the design phase

Decisions made for the facility today, could create elevated cost tomorrow.

- How often will barriers need to be re-entered?
- How often will cables in sleeves need to be moved, added, or changed?
- · Who will monitor these penetrations after re-entry?
- What parameters have been put in place to eliminate costly repairs downstream?

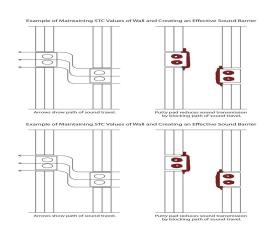
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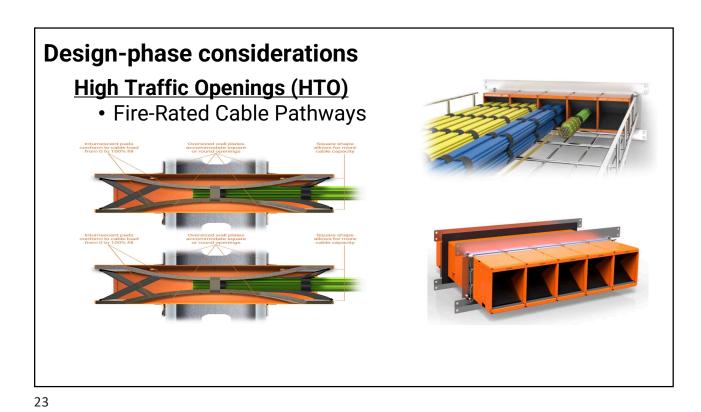
Design-phase considerations

Electrical Boxes

Putty Pads



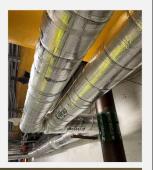




Design-phase considerations

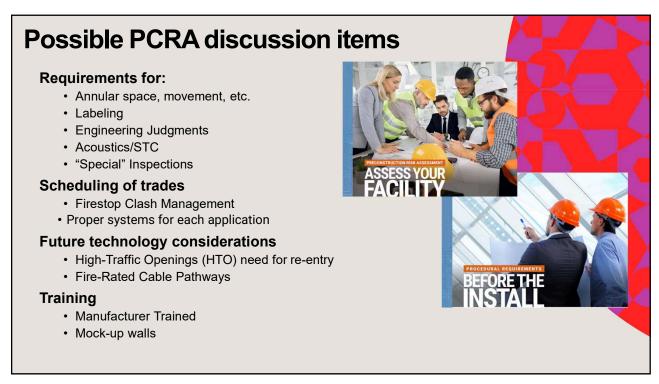
Critical Circuits and Infrastructure

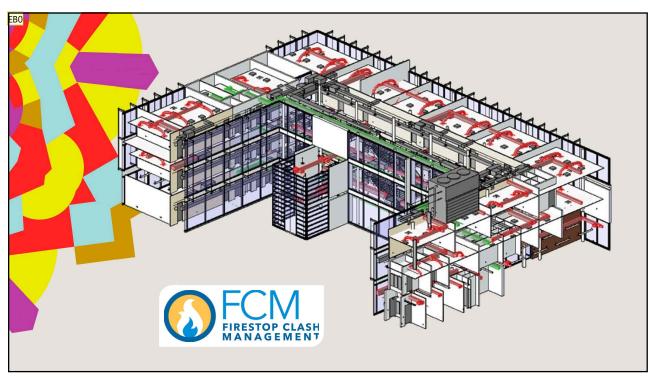
- Endothermic Wrap
 - Emergency Responder Communications Enhancement Systems (ERCES, DAS, ARCS)
 - Fuel Oil Lines
 - Fire Alarm Controls
 - Stair Pressurization
 - Smoke Extraction Fans
 - Emergency Generator
 - Fire Pump Controls

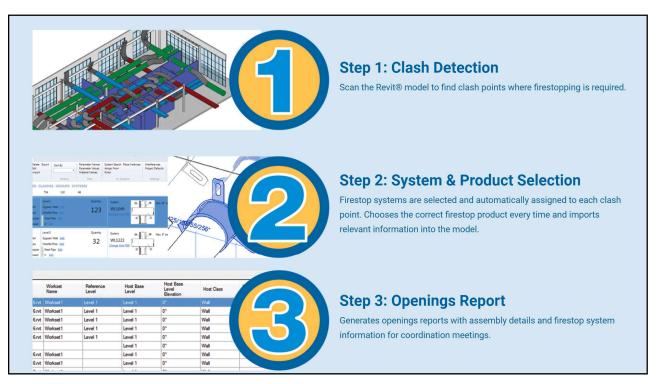












EBO [@Stacy Moses] [@Rebecca Myers] I added a few blank slides with different options, didn't want to make anything too complex. Does this work?

Erin Baird, 2024-12-18T20:44:51.270

RM0 0 Thank you! Looks good.

Rebecca Myers, 2024-12-18T21:48:29.639

Digital documentation programs can help

- Streamline the Firestop tracking process using mobile tools (app or web)
- · Platforms include both iOS and Android
- · Interactive with underlying floor drawings
- Track penetrations, construction joints, doors, dampers, etc.
- Turn-key solution with pre-printed QR labels
- · Share documents easily
- · Corrective action reports







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What is a Standard Operating Practice (SOP)?

- · Architectural specifications that match the standard set
- Full overview of fire-barrier expectations
- · Part of the bid documents
- Outlines requirements for:
 - Procedural
 - Performance
 - Submittal
 - Installation





Best Practices Recap

- Develop a firestop standard with a Barrier Management Program
- Align trades during pre-construction meetings
- Create a Standard Operating Procedure
- Require Firestop Instructional Training
- Install future-proof products & systems
- · Benefits:
 - Reduce Costly Mistakes
 - Minimizes Design Changes
 - Eliminate Inspection Delays
 - Reduce Liability
 - Save Lives



