

Subject **February 2022 MIACCA Newsletter**
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
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Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>
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Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession
FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Message from President Phil Forner

February 6th starts National Burn Awareness week. Working in the HVACR industry, take time to inform your employees about staying safe when working with equipment and chemicals. Be sure to keep your work vehicles stocked with first aid kits and review the information located in this newsletter, providing you with burn awareness resources and information

As membership renewal notices head your way, we thank you for your support last year and encourage you to stay involved in MIACCA. If you are interested on serving on a committee or the board, please contact mjdsmith@miacca.org



Upcoming Bureau of Construction Codes Meetings

February 23, 2022 - Board of Mechanical Rules

Executive Director M.J. D'Smith will be in attendance to represent MIACCA. If you have any public comments, please provide to her by February 21st at mjdsmith@miacca.com

[Check here for meeting information](#)

April 5, 2022 - Board of Mechanical Rules

Submission deadline is March 1st. If you would like MIACCA to submit on your behalf, please provide to M.J. D'smith at mjdsmith@miacca.com by February 25th.

CCC Decides to Take No Action to Prescribe Permit Forms

At the October 20, 2021, Construction Code Commission (CCC) meeting, a motion was made to table the statewide permit forms until they reviewed the findings from the Attorney General's office regarding their statutory obligation that the application for a permit "shall be on a form prescribed by the commission".

Executive Director M.J. D'Smith attended the January 26, 2022 meeting, where the CCC went into a closed session to discuss [MCL 125.1510\(1\)](#), with their representative from the Attorney General's office. When they re-opened the meeting, it was determined, that despite the consistency the permit forms would give to contractors and the public, enforcement issues in handling enforcing agencies who do not comply in using the CCC prescribed permit form was one of the main factor in

deciding not to take action at this time. This means that the CCC will continue to not follow the law and allow the Bureau of Construction Codes and other enforcing agencies to use whatever permit forms they like.

As you know, MIACCA has been the force behind getting enforcing agencies to follow the law as it is written and has actively advocated for CCC prescribed permit forms for years. We are disappointed that the CCC decided not to follow the plain meaning of the law and prescribe the permit form to be used by all enforcing agencies. We will be looking into other avenues to hopefully succeed in getting the Bureau of Construction Codes and all enforcing agencies to use permit forms that are prescribed by the CCC.

Auditor General's BCC 2020 Report

The Auditor General has released the Bureau of Construction Codes 2020 Report that you can review the report [here](#).

Some of the recommendations of the report include:

Timely boiler inspections. They point out that in May 2020 they had not conducted 7,860 out of the 61,900 required inspections nor did they conduct 2,217 of the 2,308 required follow up inspections.

Improvements to the timeliness of the complaint investigation including work without a permit and unlicensed work were recommended.

That LARA improve its statutory reporting for all BCC regulated activities.

Lien Law Seminar Key Topics



On January 13th, MIACCA held its Lien Law seminar with Attorney Matthew T. Smith, at Clark Hill Law Firm, who provided our attendees with **valuable information** regarding:

- **Necessary language needed in written estimates and bids**
- **Notice of furnishing**
- **Last day to a file lien**
- **Change orders**

If you missed this opportunity and want to know how to handle these key legal issues in the future, let us know so we can determine the need for another seminar. Email M.J.

at mjdsmith@miacca.org.

We extend our gratitude to [Attorney Matthew Smith](#) for presenting the valuable information and to [Clark Hill](#) for hosting this for MIACCA.

#NBAW

National Burn Awareness Week

FEBRUARY 6–12, 2022

National Burn Awareness Week

Every year for National Burn Awareness week, the American Burn Association brings attention to burn injuries that result in over 40,000 hospitalizations per year. While a very large majority of these burns actually occur in the home, workplace burns are a very preventable source of injury. Awareness, hazard prevention and protection can dramatically lessen the risk of burns in the workplace.

Types of Workplace Burns

Thermal Burns — Thermal burns are burns caused by the heat from liquids (called "scalding" burns), open flames, hot objects and explosions. The most important priority with thermal burns is controlling and stopping the burning process. Thermal burns can be prevented by wearing [Personal Protective Equipment](#), using [fire prevention tactics](#), and by having procedures and emergency action plans related to [fire detection and protection](#).

Chemical Burns — Chemical burns are the result of skin or eyes coming into contact with strong acids, alkaloids or other corrosive or caustic materials that eat away or "burn" skin and deeper tissue. In the workplace, these accidents can occur after exposure to industrial cleaners (such as rust removers or drain cleaners), chemicals in laboratories or manufacturing workplaces. One of the best ways to prevent chemical burns is to make sure all workers are well-versed in Hazard Communication, which covers the symbols and labels that will communicate chemical risk. These labels will also include the important information on the steps workers can take to prevent burns if they come into contact with dangerous chemicals. Workers who will come into contact with chemicals should consider [Hazard Communication training](#) and should also take refresher courses as these standards can be updated often.

Electrical Burns — Current travels through body and meets resistance in tissue, resulting in heat burn injuries. To avoid burns from electrical sources, high-voltage areas and machinery should be clearly marked. Workers should also make sure to identify live wires, avoid contact with water while working with electricity, and wear the personal protective equipment necessary to avoid burns by electricity. Our [Electrical standards course](#) is a great overview of the types of electrical hazards workers may find on a worksite and the OSHA standards that help avoid accidents.

Sun Exposure Burns — While these could technically be considered a thermal burn, sun exposure burns are worthy of special consideration. Employees who work under the sun should be well

versed in the sun safety practices that will keep them safe, and should take precaution to reduce hours under harsh direct sun, seek shade if possible, and wear sun-protective work clothing, hats and sunscreen to reduce the risk of burns from sun exposure.

Burn Severity

First Degree

First-degree burns cause minimal skin damage and are considered superficial since they affect the top layer of the skin. A mild sunburn is an example of this type of burn, where the burn site is red, painful, dry and without blister.

Second Degree

The damage from a second-degree burn extends beyond the top layer of the skin and can often cause the skin to blister or become extremely red and sore.

Third Degree

Third-degree burns destroy both the epidermis and the dermis, and they can also go as deep as to destroy tissue underneath. These burns can appear white or charred.

Fourth Degree

In a fourth-degree burn, all skin layers are affected, and there is also potential for damage to muscle, tendons and bone. Skin grafts do not work on these severe burns, so much so that fourth-degree burns may require amputation if injury occurs in a limb or extremity.

Employer's Duty

Under the OSH law, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe workplace. This overarching responsibility is broken down, but at the end of the day, if a worker is not safe, the employer is likely at risk. When it comes to burns, here are a few ways employers can help to provide safe workplaces.

Initial Training

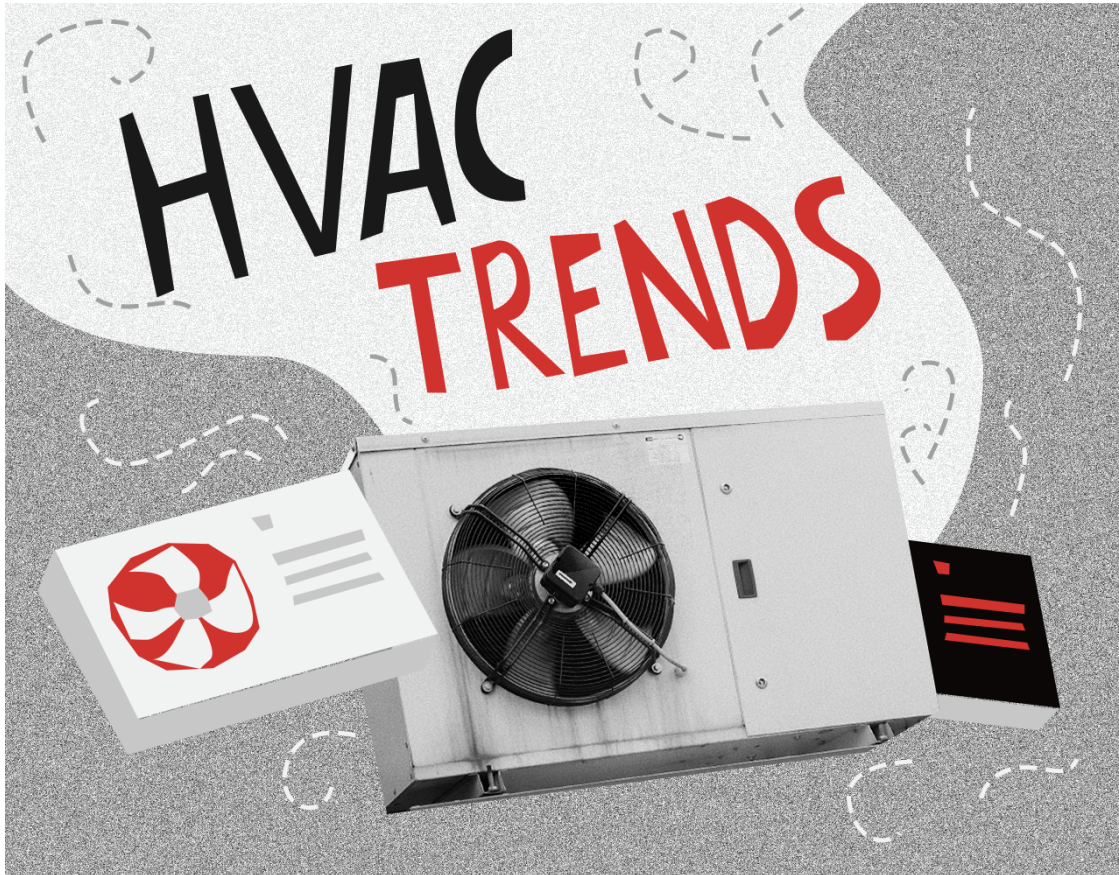
Making sure employees have the proper training is one of the most important steps an employer can take. Training should cover not only the hazards that the employee might face on their worksite, but also an overview of OSHA standards and how to identify hazards that may not have been covered. OSHA 10-hour training is a great way to get a baseline of safety standards training before an employee even starts receiving worksite-specific training. Then, employers should make sure that the employees are trained on their specific job functions, including in-depth safety training with any machinery, chemicals or other worksite hazards specific to their job.

Refresher Training

In addition to training before even starting a job, employers should regularly update training so that employees are kept up-to-date with standard changes and so that important concepts are kept at top-of-mind. Certificate training courses are a great way to re-train employees, and our online standards training topics can be taken 100% online for efficient and inexpensive refresher training.

Hazard Communication

Color codes, posters, labels or signs to warn employees of potential hazards are an employer requirement under the OSH Act, and these vital pieces of Hazard Communication are extremely important in burn prevention. Workers should be trained on how to recognize symbols and other hazard communication codes, and GHS communication standards should be used to identify material hazards in a consistent and easily recognizable way. When hazardous chemicals are found in the workplace, employers are also required to produce and provide a written Hazard Communication plan. These requirements, as well as an overview of GHS and the symbols now utilized in the United States, can be found in our [Hazard Communication overview course](#).



7 HVAC Trends to Watch for in 2022

It may be cold outside, but here are some hot trends in the heating and cooling industry to keep you warm!

1. Increasing Use of Digital Zoning

Systems that use programmable thermostats in different zones throughout your home or building are gaining traction. It's a trend that is expected to continue throughout 2022. This customizable approach to your heating and cooling needs saves money on energy bills by setting temperatures in lesser used spaces a few degrees up or down, according to the season or even the time of day. If you spend all your time during the day in your home office and kitchen, for example, you can set those zones to your peak comfort level while the other rooms are set differently. You can then program the other zones to come on later, when you're looking to relax in the living room or bedroom. Digital zoning can be installed in any home that has wireless internet access and forced air.

2. Geothermal Solutions

Geothermal systems have been gaining popularity over the past few years, and that trend is

expected to continue. **Geothermal systems** harness the power of the Earth's heat energy for effective, sustainable HVAC solutions. The systems are estimated to be **65% more efficient** than other traditional HVAC systems.

Geothermal solutions are more affordable to operate, quieter than most HVAC systems, and more eco-friendly than traditional heating and cooling systems.

3. 3D Printed Air Conditioners

Technology will meet HVAC in a most unexpected way: 3D printed air conditioners. The most recent breakthrough in this field is a 3D porous block, which absorbs humidity and cools the air through evaporation. 3D printed materials tend to be more reliable and durable than traditional materials, meaning that these systems will require less maintenance and last longer. While it was first created in 2015, this technology isn't widely available yet, but it's a developing trend to look out for in 2022.

4. Increasingly User-Friendly Controls

While the concept of wi-fi connected thermostats is appealing, many homeowners dislike the complex interface frequently used on these devices. Smart thermostats will continue to deliver energy efficient results, but the devices used to control them will streamline the user experience.

One example is the **Nest thermostat**, which learns your behaviors and adjusts itself accordingly. It can turn on the air conditioning just before you come home, for example, or turn the furnace down a degree or two at bedtime on its own, once it learns your habits. These devices can also be accessed from anywhere, at any time, and alert you of potential dangers like CO leaks or furnace malfunctions. Products like Google Nest also keep track of your history and energy usage, so you can make adjustments to save even more money on your heating and cooling bills.

5. Smart Thermostats Will Continue to Gain Popularity

Smart, **programmable thermostats** have become more popular now that homeowners understand exactly how much they can save on energy bills every month. These devices connect to WiFi to allow you to connect with them with your tablet, smart device, or computer. Any home with a WiFi connection can benefit from smart thermostats.

6. HVAC Systems are Getting Smarter, Too

The Internet of Things has been useful in the HVAC industry, allowing equipment monitoring and data collection. These technologies will advance to the point where your systems can tell you when they aren't working properly, or remind you when they need **routine preventive maintenance**. Through the use of smart technology, your HVAC systems will use sensors to control and monitor your humidity and temperature levels.

Your technicians will be able to access this data, giving them an idea of what needs to be done to service your HVAC systems.

7. Air Scrubbers, Air Cleaners, and Whole House Humidifiers

Stopping viruses and other airborne contaminants will remain a top priority throughout 2022. These systems used to be "nice to have," but are now necessities in the modern home. **Whole house humidifiers** can reduce the risk of illness, maintain proper humidity to save your wooden furniture and floors, and help those with respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD breathe easier



ACCA Annual Conference St. Louis March 28-30th

Making an investment in your company is a no-brainer for a leading HVACR contractor like you.

ACCA 2022 focuses on helping HVACR contractors to optimize for business growth and success by learning from the industry's most successful owners, entrepreneurs, top consultants, and innovative and creative up-and-comers. The Conference program is filled with HVACR training opportunities and powerhouse speakers covering the most critical and timely topics affecting HVACR contractors today. Sessions cover a wide range of topics that will help contractors be better business people and grow their profit margins year over year.

The Expo space showcases the top products and services available in the industry.

Networking opportunities are uniquely targeted, giving you ample time to make the connections you need to grow your business.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)



The Barefoot Roundtable Experience April 5-7 2022

Shoes are optional. Shorts are suggested.

What is The Barefoot Roundtable?

The Barefoot Roundtable is for all members of Service Roundtable, Service Nation Alliance, the Retail Contractor Coalition, and Associate members to network, attend amazing parties, gain tools for business success, and take their companies to another level. Here you will be able to get access to the top contractors in the nation and learn from them, make connections with reward partners to maximize your rebates, and get motivated with award-winning

speakers. The Barefoot Roundtable is designed to be an educational event with a focus on sharing industry best practices to take contractors to another level. Be the best by learning from the best. Don't miss this amazing event!

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO/REGISTRATION](#)





RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER

Safety Leadership Starts With You

Time and time again, the topics of safety leadership and risk management culture are brought up at businesses around the country. As leaders, you have a responsibility to help keep your operations running smoothly and ensuring your employees are working to the best of their abilities. But from an overarching perspective, safety leadership must start at the top — with you.

Risk Identification – When it comes to risk management, identifying the root causes of accidents and injuries and remedying them immediately using a risk management plan can help create a healthier, more stable business. Take the time to periodically conduct a workplace analysis that includes the inside and outside of the building. Focus on:

- General operations
- Machines and equipment
- Employee processes and work practices
- Housekeeping safety
- Clean walking surfaces
- Well lit and organized storage and loading zones
- Any other areas and activities necessary to perform safely well at your workplace

Take notes when potential hazards are found, gather the information, and develop plans for what is needed to control situations that may lead to unacceptable consequences. As necessary, endeavor to promptly correct workplace hazards. Safety guidelines are more effective if they are presented in a written format — create a formal safety manual and present it to employees. In this, include the means for holding employees accountable for any unsafe work habits or conditions.

Lead by Example - Your actions as a leader hold a great deal of value. As you interact with others, you should demonstrate a high level of understanding for the safety of your business, and your actions should reflect the culture of a workplace that encourages others to follow your lead.

If you see areas that need work, note them and address them. Any employee infractions should be documented and followed up on, and training should be assigned promptly. By continuously following your risk management plan and showing interest in a safe workplace, you demonstrate to your employees the level of dedication and respect that you have for them, and for your business model.

Listen to Employees – Your employees are on the front lines, and often interact with job-specific risks that you may not be entirely familiar with. If they raise safety concerns or offer suggestions about areas of their jobs, take the time to listen to them, and work to remedy the situation. Job hazard analyses are also more accurate when employees are involved.


In turn, work with them on areas that they may need further training in, along with regular refresher courses for specific tasks. By working alongside your employees to come up with relevant topics, you can keep them involved in regular training.

A risk manager is an important part of any business. Your role requires care, organization, and planning, as well as confidence and the energy to take control of a business's risk management culture. You will recognize the importance of designing and following through on a comprehensive risk management plan in order to best help protect your business's people and bottom line.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances. © 2021 Federated Mutual Insurance Company.



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