

Subject **June 2021 MIACCA Newsletter**  
From MIACCA <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
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*Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession*

## JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



### **Edition Highlights**

- [CSD-1 Training June 232 2021 Register Today!](#)
- [Air Sealing MEMD Draft Whitepaper](#)
- [2020 Utility VAPS Reports](#)
- [MIACCA introduces HB 4705](#)
- [June is National Safety Month](#)
- [5 Construction Safety Tips](#)
- [ACCA Indiana Training; Practical HVAC - Beyond the Box Diagnostics](#)
- [Federated Insurance - In Cab Technology - The Future of Fleet Safety](#)
- [Consumers Energy Business Instant Discount Program](#)
- [Service Roundtable Free Contractor Success Hour Webinar](#)

## **Message from President Phil Forner**

June is National Safety Month. As with all safety months, it is important to take the time to educate your technicians about safety in the construction workplace. This is an opportunity for you to review your own workplace, vehicles and equipment to see if safety improvements or modifications need to be made. Please read through our newsletter as we have put some tips and reference materials to share with your team. Remember to prepare yourselves and examine your work sites before starting projects to confirm it is a safe environment for your team.

MIACCA continues to look for members who are interested in joining the various board committees, such as Legislative and Workforce Development. Please contact our Executive Director, M. J. D'Smith.

Legislative and Regulatory Development. Please contact our Executive Director, Mr. D. Smith at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org).

Please continue to utilize these COVID-19 resources from our industry experts:

ACCA resources [here](#), Federated Insurance [here](#), NATE resources [here](#), ASHRAE resources [here](#)

*As always stay safe and keep up the great work!*

## Earn your CSD-1 Certification!

Hosted by:



**Tuesday June 22nd - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Join us at Behler-Young**

**to earn your NATE Accredited CSD-1 certification**

**31899 Glendale St. Livonia, MI 48150**

The class will cover code requirements for CSD-1 testing and certification, forms needed, how to test and record, and code updates.

There will be a review of current CSD-1 codes, test procedures and recording of information, how to fill out forms for state mandated CSD-1 testing, and best practices and troubleshooting.

**Cost Includes Lunch**

**MIACCA Member: \$250 \* Non Member: \$350**

Not a Member? [Join Today!](#) Your \$300 MIACCA membership includes membership for up to 10 employees.

**Presented by Phil Forner**

**Attendees need to bring a copy of:**

• **[ASME CSD-1-2018](#)**

• **[Article 9 of the Skilled Trades Regulation Act](#)**

• [Michigan Boiler Rules](#)

**Reserve Your Spot Today- Limited Seating!**

*There is minimum of 10 attendees necessary to run this training.*

*We will be practicing appropriate social distancing measures.  
Information on the specifics will be forth coming.*

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[View Flyer Here](#)



**Updated- Air Sealing Measures MEMD Draft Whitepaper**

MIACCA is sharing with you this draft that we recieved from the Michigan Public Service Commission's Energy Waste Reduction committee that they will be reviewing. [You can view the document here.](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please contact M.J. D'Smith at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org)

## **2020 Utility Annual VAPS Reports**

DTE has also submitted their 2020 VAPS annual reports to the Michigan Public Service Commission. Visit the MIACCA [Code of Conduct Page](#). DTE profited \$20 million on the gas VAPS program. You will recall that Consumers Energy ASP gross sales amount for its breakdown insurance \$78,883,877 and the total amount of "Cost of Goods Sold" "Material & labor (including labor overheads)" \$26,590,500. This adds up to about \$50 million which roughly represents the amount of repair business that regular HVAC contractors did not do in 2020.

The reports were due on April 30th and are now coming available. As more reports are obtained by MIACCA, we will post them on on our page. Remember, this is one of MIACCA's initiatives to

have the reports turned into the Michigan Public Service Commission and we are the only ones who have the reports online for your reference. This is an accomplishment we are proud of as we important to share the impact of the program, to our industry, with our members.

## **MIACCA Introduces HB 4705**

This bill would mandate that every meeting of a public body that is a state licensing board, commission panel, or rule-making board, except a meeting or part of a meeting held in closed session, must be recorded in a manner that allows for the capture of sound, MIACCA has been active in trying to get these meetings recorded in order to reference things that are not always captured in minutes. This will provide our members involved in these meetings to access them in a thorough manner. The bill states that these recordings will have to be maintained for one year. You may [view the bill here](#).

A House Oversight Committee hearing scheduled for 6/10/21. We will keep you posted on the process.

We gratefully appreciate Representatives Luke Meerman, Gary Howell, Jeffrey Yaroch and Steven Johnson for introducing this important piece of legislation.



## **June is National Safety Month**

Get your free National Safety Month Materials from the National Safety Council.

Join them in celebrating the 25th anniversary of National Safety Month! Sign up now to access free materials on pressing topics, including:

- Week 1 - Prevent Incidents Before They Start: Identifying risks and taking proactive safety measures to reduce hazard exposure on important topics from ergonomics to chemical management is crucial to creating a safe workplace.
- Week 2 - Address Ongoing COVID-19 Safety Concerns: As the pandemic looms on,

employers play an important role in the return to physical workspaces, building trust around vaccines, mental health and so much more.

- Week 3 - It's Vital to Feel Safe on the Job: Being able to be one's self at work without fear of retaliation is necessary for an inclusive safety culture. Leading organizations focus not only on physical safety, but psychological safety as well.
- Week 4 - Advance Your Safety Journey: Safety is all about continuous improvement. Whether organizationally or individually, NSC can help provide guidance for your path forward.

[Sign Up for Free today!](#)

## **5 Safety Construction Tips for Your Workers' Well-Being**

Construction worksites are an incredibly dangerous place to be. There are many safety hazards around every corner. This is why it is so important that workers at these sites know and follow safety rules set forth by you. To keep the workplace a safe environment, use these five helpful tips.

### **1. Getting In and Out of Equipment**

Believe it or not, one of the leading [causes of injuries](#) to equipment operators are getting in and out of their equipment. However, you can easily lower the risk of your workers getting injured by having your workers follow these steps:

- Check your boots and gloves for mud or slippery substances and wipe them off
- Get a foot or hand hold before hoisting yourself up
- Use a step ladder if necessary to make sure you can climb on the equipment safely
- If you need help, be sure to ask. There's nothing to be embarrassed about if you need a helping hand.
- Avoid hopping up or down on equipment, take your time

### **2. What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Wear**

It's important that you wear the right clothes for your job, which means wearing [protective gear](#) if need be. On the job, you should store your gear and other tools in a safe, dry place. First aid kits and fire extinguishers should be located near the work area and readily available.

If you're lifting heavy objects, you should use a back brace to prevent damage to your body. You should also be sure to wear gloves and goggles on the worksite if you're using dangerous tools. If you're working on an elevated area and there's a risk of slipping and falling, you should wear a safety harness.

You should also wear nonskid, rubber footwear if you are working in an area with slippery surfaces. Or, if you're lifting particularly heavy objects. Be sure to find the most comfortable composite toe shoes for work.

It's crucial to your health that you wear a breathing mask at work if your workplace has bad ventilation if you work with dangerous toxins, or if you deal with constant dust or other debris.

### **3. Staying Safe Loading or Unloading Equipment**

No matter where you're working, there's always the risk of equipment rolling over if you're loading or unloading it. This is why it's important to make sure the ramps you're using are straight and cleared. You should also be sure to allow plenty of room between you and the equipment in case of an emergency.

Make sure you use another co-worker as a spotter while guiding your equipment and make sure the machine is clear of the ramp before turning it. However, you should also make sure the trailer deck and you have proper clearance before loading it, in addition to using correct tie-down procedures.

#### **4. Ladder and Stairs Climbing Hazards**

Any worker who frequently climbs ladder or stairs during a project should take these special precautions. Workers should always inspect a ladder or stairs before they step on them. Check for damaged, loose, worn, weak, and otherwise broken spots. Avoid standing on these areas and inform the foreman of these safety issues. Stairs and ladders should be kept clean, uncluttered, and dry. Workers should not use metal ladders in rainy or wet conditions.

When you can, choose aerial lifts and elevated platforms as these are safer than standing and balancing on a ladder. Additionally, you should install safety features like warning lines, guardrails with toes boards, and control line systems.

When you are using a ladder, you should pick one out that is at least three to four feet taller than the location you need to reach. You should also make sure you calculate the distance carefully. For every four feet of height, scoot the base of the ladder out a foot from the wall. Be sure to move the ladder as you work. Do not try to overreach as you can easily lose your balance and get injured. When climbing and descending, keep your hands free and your tools in your tool belt.

#### **5. Crowded Work Areas**

When it comes to construction workplace frustrations, crowding in work areas is one of the biggest. This is especially an issue with large machinery. People on the work site gather to watch the large machines work. Usually, there is no reason for this; it is just a habit. However, it increases unnecessary exposure to injury.

If someone is working with large machinery, people on the ground should remain far from the operating area. Foremen should enforce this rule and review it at any safety meetings. It is not the operator's responsibility to ensure people stay back while they are trying to work. However, they can beep their horn to warn others when they are about to begin working. They should also be sure to check closely behind them when they are backing up.

### **Conclusion**

By following the five tips above, you can ensure that your construction site is a safe and efficient place to be. These are just a few suggestions for workplace safety; there are many more considerations that you should take into account when trying to protect your workers. However, no matter what you do and what changes you make, safety should always be your first priority.



**Workforce Issues, A2L Refrigerant Transition Lead Conversation During ACCA Virtual Residential  
Manufacturer Leadership Forum**

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) held its first Virtual Residential Manufacturer Leadership Forum on May 4, 2021. The forum was moderated by Kyle Gargaro, Editor-in-Chief of ACHR News, and featured a panel of leaders from Carrier Global, Rheem Manufacturing, and Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US.

Justin Keppy, president of residential & light commercial HVAC at Carrier Global, Mike Branson, president of global air at Rheem Manufacturing, and Tom Overs, vice president of residential business at Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US spoke on a variety of topics facing the HVACR industry.

The panelists commented on the affect ecommerce has on the industry, saying that it is a great opportunity for contractors to reach a broader consumer base, showcase their products, and share the benefits of proper air purification and ventilation.

The transition to A2L mildly flammable refrigerants was another notable topic, with the panelists emphasizing the importance of training, gaining certification, and taking advantage of the information available.

"I appreciate the panelists sharing their take on A2L mildly flammable refrigerants. This is just the beginning, and we can all agree that the time to get trained is now," said Manuel Chaves, ACCA member and owner of Chaves Heating and Air Conditioning in Hudson, MA. "I am appreciative that ACCA offers an online training course covering A2L refrigerants."

[Learn More and Register Here](#)





## In-Cab Technology: The Future of Fleet Safety

With vehicle crashes on the rise and cost of crash-related litigation skyrocketing, many businesses are leveraging in-cab technology to help protect their drivers, operations, and bottom line. Many early adopters have achieved impressive results, such as fewer accidents, fewer claims, and fewer false accusations levied at their company drivers. In-cab technology ultimately encompasses any tool that collects information and quantifiable data to evaluate driver behavior, vehicle performance, and road conditions. It could include:

### Video or Dash Cams

*Are your drivers wearing a seatbelt? Are they distracted by their phone or radio? Do they speed or display road rage? Does the video support their statements regarding who was at fault in a collision?*

Drivers who know they are on camera may be more safety-conscious behind the wheel. And, if they are not driving safely, video footage can help you identify their risky behavior so you can take corrective action before a crash occurs. Video recording around the exterior of the vehicle can also help give you a clear view of the facts should a collision occur, which may help support your defense against false claims levied at your drivers.

### GPS Tracking and Vehicle Monitoring

*Are your drivers on time and taking the most efficient driving routes? If there is an incident, will your drivers remember the exact location where it occurred? Could your drivers more effectively be responding to urgent customer service needs?*

GPS tracking tools can help you get full visibility of your fleet vehicles out on the road in real time. Some GPS services can provide information on vehicle location, provide an overview of a vehicle's daily route, and note the location of an incident. They can also help you find the closest available vehicle when you need to respond to a customer quickly. Telematics systems can also monitor factors such as speed and brake usage, giving you a better picture of your drivers' behavior behind the wheel.

### Predictive Analytics and Insights

*Do you know how your company drivers compare to others in your industry? How might fleet performance and driver behavior today impact your business down the road?*

By analyzing video footage and vehicle performance data, some in-cab technology solutions can provide valuable insights that help you predict and proactively address problems in the future. These insights can be specific to your business and may help you to pinpoint opportunities to improve your safe driving culture and fleet performance.

While in-cab technology may help lower operating costs, lower insurance premiums, increase productivity, and create better fuel efficiency, what really matters is that it can help your company drivers make it home safe today.

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Consumers Energy Business Instant Discount Program is expanding their team of distributors! We have also improved our incentive structure to now include new construction projects to better serve our customers. Once enrolled, you will have the ability to provide an instant discount over the counter and earn bonuses based on your level of participation. Processing Instant Discounts is the fastest, easiest way to provide incentives to your valued customers.

For a list of current incentives, please visit [Instant Discount Service For Business | Consumers Energy](#). To enroll please contact Brandon Scott @ 517-243-1070 ([brandon.scott@cmsenergy.com](mailto:brandon.scott@cmsenergy.com)) or Todd Loheny @ 517-512-0144 ([todd.loheny@cmsenergy.com](mailto:todd.loheny@cmsenergy.com)).



## Free Contractor Success Hour - Online Webinar

Are you ready to take your business to the next level? Tired of working in your business rather than "on" it? Wonder how other company owners manage to take family vacations and spend time away, but you can't? We can show you how our members grow their profit by 30% each year!

Make plans now to find out how our members create their own success when you join us for this business-building seminar for owners of contracting business companies. On **June 16, 2021**, we will host our **Contractor Success Hour -- ONLINE!** Valued at \$749, this meeting is **FREE** for guests - and you are invited!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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