



Subject **October 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*

# OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



**MICHIGAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION

## **Edition Highlights**

**MIACCA to Host FSU Student Event on October  
11th**

**Careers in Construction Month**

**OSHA Fire Extinguisher Requirements**

**Fire Prevention Week Oct 3-9**

**Trades Oppose Tax Reporting Proposal**

**Federated Insurance - Ignition Safety**

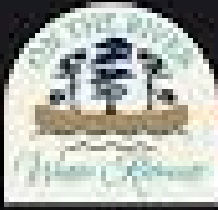
**MIACCA Attends Service World Expo**

**Statewide Permit Update**

**MIACCA Seeking Input for Next Legislative Focus**

**MIACCA President's Report**





# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## **MIACCA to Host FSU Student Event October 11th**

MIACCA will be hosting a student event, in conjunction with Michigan Engineered Comfort Corporation on October 11th. Students will have hands on opportunities with cranes, lifts and more.

**We are seeking door prizes and event sponsors.** If your company would like to contribute, please contact M.J. at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org). We will make certain that anyone who donates are represented and thanked at the event!

# #careersinconstruction

OCTOBER 1-31





## Careers in Construction Month

While construction offers job satisfaction, lucrative salaries and high demand, it is facing a critical shortage of workers. To help build a pipeline of talent, BYF provides multiple ways to get involved. Whether filing an official proclamation, taking the CICM pledge or submitting a video to the I BUILT THIS! video contest – there is a way for everyone to participate.

States across the country have already started celebrating, 32 of which have filed an official proclamation request as of September 8. To find out if your state has proclaimed and how to file a proclamation, visit [byf.org/cicm](http://byf.org/cicm).

Additionally, BYF is encouraging partnerships between industry and education by asking organizations to [pledge their support](#). Throughout the month, pledgers will make a dedicated effort to connect with students virtually or in-person. After signing, companies will be entered into a drawing to win **one of four \$5,000 scholarships**, given to the construction craft training program of their choice. Sign the pledge at [byf.org/cicm](http://byf.org/cicm) and join the other [86 organizations](#) that pledged to make an impact this October.

**WHEN USING A FIRE**



## WHEN USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER, REMEMBER TO **PASS**:

- **P**ull the pin while holding the nozzle away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low, pointing the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side to side.



# OSHA Fire Extinguisher Height, Placement, and Requirements

The OSHA standard for fire extinguishers dictates that employers should

*"provide portable fire extinguishers and mount, locate, and identify them so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury."*

OSHA also states that **only approved fire extinguishers** can be used. They must remain in their designated place unless being used. The employer must ensure they are fully charged, well maintained, and

working properly.

Each business should consider the types of fire likely to take place in their workplace and select the extinguishers accordingly. The standard also sets out where to place extinguishers to comply with the **maximum distance** an employee should travel to deal with a fire using that equipment.

In addition, there are rules relating to **how often an employer should test a fire extinguisher**, both visually and in more detail, as well as the training that they should offer employees regarding their use and the hazards and risks involved.

## **OSHA Fire Extinguisher Mounting Height**

### **Requirements**

According to the [Extinguisher Placement and Safety](#) page of OSHA's Evacuation Plans and Procedures eTool, there must be at least **four inches** clearance between the floor and the bottom of a portable extinguisher. The administration tells employers that they must mount them on the wall or place them in wall cabinets to help prevent anyone from moving or damaging them.

There are also rules about the maximum mounting height, based on the gross weight.

**For example...** If an extinguisher weighs less than 40 lbs, the carrying handle should be no more than 5 ft

... lbs, the carrying handle should be no more than 5 ft from the ground. Any heavier than 40 lbs and the handle should be no more than 3.5 ft from the floor.

These heights reflect the requirement that employees should be able to access a fire extinguisher without risking an injury. It is more manageable for an employee to handle a larger extinguisher if you mount it lower.

## **READ MORE**



# **Educate your Employees and Customers!**

With cooler weather moving in and furnaces coming on, it is important to take the time on your service calls to educate your employees and customers about fire safety. Remind them to check smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and how to properly use space heaters to avoid fires. The International Association of Fire Fighters have developed a wonderful toolkit for you to use on your social media and email campaigns to help spread the word. You may find everything you need [here](#). Stay safe!



## **Trades Oppose Tax Reporting Proposal**

ACCA is proud to share that we have signed a letter urging Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and members of the U.S. House of Representatives not to move forward with a proposal that would establish an expansive new tax information requirement with significant implications for consumers and small businesses with bank accounts—like those in the HVACR industry.

This article from the [Association of Credit and Collection Professionals \(ACA\)](#), details issues with the proposal as they are stated in the letter. The stated goal of the proposal's data collection is to uncover tax dodging by the wealthy. ACCA along with numerous other industry trade groups have already signed on



Other industry trade groups have already signed on, agreeing that the proposal is targeted to the wrong population.

To learn more about the proposal and the letter ACCA has signed, click [here](#).



#### RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER

##### **Ignite Safety – Not Flames**

It can happen in an instant; one spark, one combustion, or one overheated piece of equipment — a fire can start quickly and often stems from common workplace items or environments. Have you considered the devastating losses a commercial fire could cause your business?

For this year's National Fire Prevention Week, October 3-9, Federated Insurance encourages employers to conduct fire safety meetings. Vigilant employees who know what to look for could be the reason a blaze doesn't begin, and it all starts with educating your staff on hazardous fire risks.

##### **A Year-Round Effort**

National Fire Prevention Week serves to bring awareness to fire risks, but actively working throughout the year to prevent fires is the name of the game. Though the vast majority of non-residential fires are preventable, understanding the hazards that exist in the first place is where prevention truly starts. Strategies include:

- Conducting employee safety meetings on fire safety and common fire hazards at workplaces.
- Helping employees understand that each and every one of them has a responsibility to take an active role in fire prevention.
- Understanding the risks of not taking action when hazards exist — fires can result in life-changing injuries, death, property damage, smoke-damaged inventory, and lost revenue.
- Implementing regular safety meetings to brush up on safety topics, and staying in the loop with new ones.

##### **Long-term Effects**

Have you considered the long-term effects of a fire at your workplace? Forty percent of businesses do not reopen after a fire or other natural disaster.<sup>1</sup> Even if you are able to reopen after a fire it will take time, and that may mean you and your employees are out of work until the building can safely be repaired and reopened. Not to mention that a loss of inventory or equipment can leave you scrambling to recover financially.

In order to help prevent potential property damage and life-changing injuries or death, work with your employees to help them understand the ramifications of a workplace fire. If you haven't already, utilize Federated's resources, available through mySHIELD®, to create a fire prevention plan. And keep in mind that teaching your employees about fire safety is one thing, but helping them realize the responsibility they each have in protecting their workplace can be just as important.

Work with your employees now to have successful fire safety meetings. The more information they have in their arsenal, the better they will be at detecting potential hazards and stopping a fire before it starts. Federated Insurance clients can access a variety of fire prevention risk management resources, including employee training posters, sample industry-specific fire hazard checklists, and more by logging in to mySHIELD.

1. Insurance Information Institute. FEMA Information. [www.iii.org/article/when-disaster-strikes-preparation-response-and-recovery](http://www.iii.org/article/when-disaster-strikes-preparation-response-and-recovery). Accessed July 20, 2021.

*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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# MIACCA Attends Service World Expo

MIACCA's Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith was in attendance at this event in Louisville, KY in September. She had the ability to brainstorm with

other state associations, sit in on keynote speaker sessions and network with vendors at the Trade Show. You can read her report [here](#).

MIACCA extends its gratitude to Service Nation for allowing her to attend the conference and covering her travel expenses. This was another great event put on by an exceptional organization!

## **MIACCA's Statewide Permit Update**

At the last Construction Code Commission (CCC) meeting, in April, MIACCA's request for a statewide permit was on the agenda. They had sought input for building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permit applications. MCL 125.1510(1) requires these applications to be on a form prescribed by the commission. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) highly encourages the CCC to prescribe these forms, and the CCC acknowledges assistance from the Bureau of Construction Codes. For your reference, this was the [MIACCA proposed form](#), that we submitted.

Their next meeting will be October 13th. We will continue to keep you informed.

# MIACCA Needs Your Input on our Next Legislative Focus!

With the success of our newly signed Public Act 68, MIACCA is ready to accomplish another legislative goal for our industry and HVACR contractors.

**NOW**, we are seeking input from our members on our next topic of focus. We are asking you to provide feedback on which one of these important issues you think we should tackle:

1. Plumbing license exemption for mechanical contractors replacing a residential water heater
2. Electrical license exemption for mechanical contractors installing low voltage HVACR control wiring
3. Allowing for and requiring only a single permit when replacing an existing appliance that involves multiple disciplines (mechanical, electrical, plumbing)
4. Process for initiating a mandatory performance evaluation of an enforcing agency upon receiving multiple written complaints
5. An administrative appeals process to the Board of Boiler Rules for appealing a State Boiler

of boiler rules for appealing a State Boiler Inspector's notice of violation of a boiler installation.

6. An administrative appeals process for appealing the Bureau of Construction Codes determination that there is insufficient evidence to proceed with a formal complaint of a Skilled Trades Regulation Act violation.

7. Other suggestions you may have.

**MIACCA is working hard for our industry and our members. Please respond to this email with the top issues you would like us to handle next.**

# Message from President Phil Forner

Fall is officially here and the cool weather is upon us. Here comes our second flurry of appointments while we are still catching up on others! Fire Prevention Week is October 3rd-9th and this is an excellent time to share fire safety tips with your clients and employees. It is also a good time to check your fire extinguishers and do an in house session with your new techs on the proper use of them, should they run into a fire hazzard. You will find many good tips and resources in this

newsletter that I encourage you to use.

This month also promotes careers in construction. There are a lot of tools listed in the article below. MIACCA is always trying to encourage students to invest their future into an HVACR career. When talking with clients, with young children, use the opportunity to share your positive experience about having a career in HVACR to keep our industry thriving.

Stay safe out there!

**Join forces with us to  
have the most  
current HVAC  
information and  
become a member  
today!**

# Supported by our Corporate Partner Members

**BEHLER-YOUNG**  

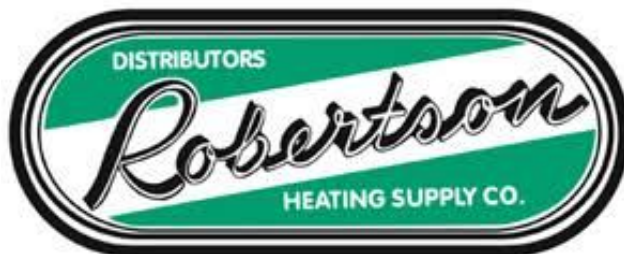
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**C O M P A N Y**





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