

Code Update Class **SOLD OUT!**

MORE THAN 50 HVAC TECHNICIANS attended the RMGA Code Update Class on September 7 at RSD in Draper, and an additional twelve technicians watched a simulcast at Dixie Applied Technology College in St. George. Each attendee was fed dinner, given three hours of code update training, and were provided with all three relevant code books: The 2015 International Fuel Gas Code, the 2015 International Mechanical Code, and the 2015 International Residential Code, which were recently adopted by the State of Utah.

Interest was so great among HVAC companies to learn about the 2015 changes to the construction code, and to receive the new code books that RMGA had to turn away technicians for lack of seating capacity, but promised to offer the course and book give away again in 2017. Dates will be announced next month, and will include two new training locations: one in Weber County, and another in Utah County. ■



Six \$500 HVAC Scholarships Available!

Do you know an HVAC Student who could use \$500 for his education? Send him or her to the RMGA website, where they can download the Scholarship Application.

<https://utrmga.org/certification-and-scholarships/>

Every year, RMGA awards six (6) \$500 scholarships to worthy first and second year HVAC technician students. Applications are due March 31 with awards announced at the RMGA Education Summit, in April.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RYAN SNOW, RMGA PRESIDENT

Ryan Snow
 ryan@timeforcomfort.com
 801-224-8899
 westernheatingair.com

Hello RMGA Members & Friends,

Can you believe that another year has come and gone? As 2016 is winding down, I hope that you will take some time to reflect on this past year. Take a look at all of the good and bad. What are some areas that you would like to improve in? Start thinking about the goals that you want to set for 2017. Put your plan together and make it happen. I am looking forward to working with many of you to help make the HVAC trade better in Utah in 2017!

RMGA 2015-2016 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

RYAN SNOW
 Western Heating & Air Conditioning
 ryan@timeforcomfort.com

VICE PRESIDENT

RYAN RENTMEISTER
 Rentmeister Total Home Service
 Ryan@rentmeister.com

PAST PRESIDENT

BRENT URSENBACH
 Salt Lake County Building Inspector
 BUrsenbach@slco.org

DIRECTORS

RICK CARMAN
 Carman Refrigeration
 rick@carmanrefrigeration.com

DAVID Y. CLAYTON
 Hercules Industries
 dclayton@hercmail.com

DEAN DYATT
 Johnstone Supply
 Dean.dyatt@johnstonesupply.com

TRINA HANSEN
 Ogden-Weber Applied Tech. College
 hansent@owatc.edu

NED HART
 Fortis College
 nhart@fortiscollege.edu

BRAD LAVENDER
 Relevant Solutions
 brad.lavender@relevantsolutions.com

CHAD LEWIS
 Questar Gas
 Chad.Lewis@Questar.com

JAMIE SCHUMACHER
 Gunther's Comfort Air
 jamie@gunthers.com

WILL PIERCE
 Davis Applied Tech College
 will.pierce@datc.edu

LORI STEWART
 Mountainland Applied Tech. College
 lstewart@mlatc.edu

JASON TANNER
 Triple T Heating & Cooling
 jtanner@tripletheating.com

RALPH TASKER
 Salt Lake Community College
 ralph.tasker@slcc.edu

BRIAN TEMPLIN
 ESCO
 bwtemplin@gmail.com

CLAY THORNTON
 Thornton Plumbing & Heating
 clayct@floor-heat.com

RMGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHN HILL
 Hillmgmt@aol.com

Welcome New RMGA Members!

UNITED TEAM MECHANICAL

Zach Taylor
 151 North 600 West
 Kaysville, UT 84037
 801-991-1136
 ztaylor@teammechanical.com

WALL SERVICE INC

Pat Wall
 2850 South Redwood Road C8
 West Valley City, UT 84119
 801-975-7078
 wallpam@hotmail.com

T'S HEATING

Tristan Dutton
 P.O. Box 2588
 St. George, UT 84771
 435-619-0211
 tsheatingcooling@yahoo.com

DIXIE HEATING & AIR

Jason White
 3884 South River Road, Unit D1
 St. George, UT 84790
 435-705-9660
 dixiehvac@gmail.com
 http://www.dixiehvac.com

STUDENT MEMBER

Travis Irwin
 1576 North 700 West
 West Bountiful, UT 84087
 801-725-6515
 travis_irwin@outlook.com

CUSTOM AIR, INC

Randy Lund
 677 Bulldog Circle
 Murray, UT 84123
 801-548-5444
 beckytlund@gmail.com

BLUE FLAME HEATING, INC.

Tim Miller
 Park City, UT 84098
 6415 North Business Park Loop Road,
 Ste H-8
 435-658-3020
 blueflameheating@aol.com

HYLAND HEATING COMPANY

Carl Sorenson
 1376 West 8040 South #3
 West Jordan, UT 84088
 801-561-5904
 hyland.heating@gmail.com

AFFILIATE MEMBER

Darin Young
 19 East Teal Court
 Saratoga Springs, UT 84045
 385-237-6126
 singlephased@gmail.com

New Air Conditioning Energy Conservation Standards

For the first time, central air conditioner energy conservation standards vary by region, so different air conditioners will be available to customers living in the North, Southeast, and Southwest regions. **Contractors and dealers must maintain records of system installations in the two Southern regions.**

These new standards apply based on the kind of air conditioner installed and when and where the central air conditioner is installed.

The “Southwest” includes: Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico, which standards apply to split-system air conditioners and single-package air conditioners.

The amended standards that impact the Southwest region are based on date of installation. Therefore, units installed on or after January 1, 2015, should meet the new standards, and DOE will strictly enforce the regional standards.

The “Southeast” includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

The “North” includes the remainder of the United States, including Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. The amended



standards are based on the product’s date of manufacture with units manufactured before January 1, 2015, required to meet the standards that were in effect before January 1, 2015, and units manufactured after January 1, 2015, must meet the new standards.

Note: Heat pumps are not subject to regional standards.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued regulations and an enforcement plan for regional

standards, and DOE has developed a brochure for installers and purchasers of central air conditioners that can be found at:

<http://www.energy.gov/gc/downloads/air-conditioner-regional-standards-brochure>.

DOE will also post information about regional standards violations for suppliers; since it is now illegal to sell a routine violator any kind of central air conditioner (including heat pumps).

There is even a consumer hotline, if a consumer believes their air conditioner installer has installed an illegal air conditioner, they may report it to DOE at:

EnergyEfficiencyEnforcement@doe.gov or 202-287-6997. ■

Time out for a little humor



Meet and Get to Know: JAMIE SCHUMACHER



JAMIE SCHUMACHER AND FAMILY

Q. What is your position within your company?

A. I started as an installer with Gunthers in April of 1992, then in 2000, I took an opportunity to move into a sales/estimator position.

Q. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A. An engineer, it always seemed fascinating to build things.

Q. Why did you become an HVACR contractor?

A. I married into the industry, to be honest I really didn't have any inclination toward this industry but my father-in-law gave me a chance to work, and I made the best of it. I have enjoyed learning and improving my knowledge and skills over the years and now find this job to be extremely rewarding.

Q. What are your favorite aspects of your job?

A. The most satisfying part of my job is meeting people, and finding and solving problems.

Q. As an RMGA Board Member, what would you like to accomplish?

A. As a board member I hope to continue the push for education and improvement in our industry.

Q. If you weren't an HVACR contractor, who do you think you would be?

A. Probably a high school math and physics teacher.

Q. What is a motto that you live by?

A. Do your best and everything will work out.

Q. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A. I would like to go back to Alaska, I went 25 years ago and would love to go again.

Q. What is your favorite dessert?

A. Creme Brûlée

Q. If you had 5 million dollars, what would you do first?

A. I enjoy traveling, I would probably take my kids on a great vacation.

Q. If you could invite any three people to dinner (dead or alive), whom would you invite and why?

A. I would like to sit down with my grandparents. As an adult, I find them incredibly more interesting than I did as a kid. I would love to know more about their lives and where they came from.

Jamie Schumacher can be reached at Gunther's Comfort Air: jamie@gunthers.com ■

UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASSES



Next classes:

Friday, January 13 & Saturday, January 14
8 am - 5 pm

Review and Exam
Saturday, January 21
8 am - 4 pm

All classes will be held at:
Questar Gas
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City

\$300 member • \$375 non-member
Price includes books,
testing fees and lunch!

**Call 801-521-8340
to register**

**Advertise in RMGA
PIPELINE!**

**This size ad for only
\$60**

**Call Duane Hill @
801-521-8335 to
reserve your space!**



EMPLOYMENT LAW

VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE has gone far beyond the stereotype of the disgruntled postal worker. No workplace is immune.

Each week, on average, nearly 11 workers are slain, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The problem is so acute that the FBI has issued a special report, “Workplace Violence Report,” available at www.fbi.gov/.

Although robbery-related incidents account for the highest percentage of on-the-job slayings, much workplace violence is employee on employee. The key triggers of violence: personality conflicts, work-related stress, family or marital problems, emotional or mental illness, firings, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Violence puts employers in a tricky situation. On the one hand, you can’t control the behavior of your employees and clients—much less that of strangers who walk in off the street. But the courts say you do have a “duty of care”—a responsibility to keep your employees reasonable safe from both inside and outside forces. Employers may be held liable for their employees’ actions conducted within the scope of their employment.

The key issues: whether violent attacks were foreseeable and whether the conduct occurred within the scope of employment.

As an employer, you can also be

Dealing with Workplace Violence: What’s Your Responsibility?

charged with negligent hiring of an individual who is prone to violence if you knew or should have known that hiring the person created an unreasonable risk of harm to others. The focus is on how adequately you performed a background check before hiring the person.

You can also be held responsible for “negligent supervision” or “negligent retention” of an employee. Negligent supervision arises when an employee injures a third party because the employer improperly trained or supervised him or her. Negligent retention involves instances in which a company keeps on the payroll an employee who it knows, or reasonably should know, poses a threat to others.

Be aware that you can be held liable for acts of workplace violence under OSHA’s general duty clause or

screen out violent persons:

1. Use an employment application. Compare the application and the persons résumé to check for any inconsistencies.
2. Conduct a thorough background check, consistent with applicable law, on every applicant. Avoid inquiries that are broader than necessary to evaluate the applicant’s fitness for the position. Obtain his or her consent before asking any inquiries. Keep all personal information confidential.
3. Check if the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony. Note that some states restrict an employer’s right to use criminal records in employment decisions.
4. Conduct a thorough job interview. Don’t hire an applicant who hasn’t been interviewed. In addition to asking about convictions, you should ask about any gaps in the person’s employment history. Although you may be tempted to inquire about an applicant’s physical or mental impairment that may cause violent behavior, you must avoid asking about the person’s disability-related status. The ADA limits pre-employment inquiries regarding an applicant’s disabilities.
5. Verify the information the applicant provides on his or her job application and in the interview.
6. Call all the references provide by the applicant. Many employers, wary of defamation lawsuits, won’t supply much, if any, information to prospective employers in a reference check.. Try to alleviate this problem by having the applicant sign authorization forms to release information. ■



state workers’ compensation statutes.

To avoid liability and protect our workers, you need to assess the risk of violence in your workplace and take appropriate steps to reduce those risks. A workplace violence prevention program should include a system for documenting incidents, procedure to follow when a violent incident occurs, and open communication between you and your workers.

Screen Applicants

Take these steps in the hiring process to

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Is Code Compliance Required for Retro-fit/Replacement HVAC Systems?



BRENT URSENBACH

SALT LAKE COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

bursenbach@slco.org

385-468-6694

BRENT URSENBACH

THE RETROFIT MARKET FOR residential, commercial and public buildings is being driven by aging existing systems, energy and environmental concerns, and efforts to improve comfort and health with buildings. Too often, the retrofit contractor simply replaces like for like, rather than evaluating the entire building, addressing the current conditions and deficiencies in the building and HVAC systems. The number of calls I receive concerning customer dissatisfaction is on the increase, often with multiple calls each week. My comments will generally address residential systems; however, the same consideration must be given to commercial systems.

Referencing the 2015 International Residential Code:

R105.1 Required. *Any owner or owner's authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or to cause any such work to be performed,*

shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.



Any new work performed to alter, enlarge or replace a system must comply with the code. In other sections of the code we find exceptions to permits for the replacement of components within systems, i.e. permits are not required to replace a motor, gas valve or control board. The focus of this discussion is the responsibility we have, to insure compliance with the current requirements in the IRC, IMC and IFGC, and **to address the customer's expectations**, when replacing or installing new HVAC systems.

Load Calculations, Duct Design, Equipment Selection

2015 IRC:

M1401.3 Equipment and appliance sizing. *Heating and cooling equipment*

and appliances shall be sized in accordance with ACCA Manual S or other approved sizing methodologies based on building loads calculated in accordance with ACCA Manual J or other approved heating and cooling calculation methodologies.

M1601.1 Duct design. *Duct systems serving heating, cooling and ventilation equipment shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this section and ACCA Manual D, the appliance manufacturer's installation instructions or other approved methods.*

Please consider:

- Is a load calculation performed on every home prior to the replacement or the addition of new HVAC systems? Jurisdictions generally have not required load submission for retro-fit permits, in part, because they do not want to delay the contractors, who regularly comply with their responsibility as a licensed contractor to obtain permits.
- Does a discussion occur with homeowners, identifying problem areas, expectations and energy efficiency improvements made to the home? A deficiency identified in the bid process, with options to improve, minimizes customer complaints after the installation is completed.

- Did you know, replacement windows in an older home might reduce the heating or cooling load 25%, or even more? With our climatic conditions, 300 square feet of single pane, metal framed window will have a heat loss exceeding 20,000 BTU/h, while 300 square feet of double frame, double coat lowE, vinyl framed window will have a heat loss less than 5,000 BTU/h.
- What is the impact of other efficiency improvements in the home; such as, attic insulation, insulated siding, air sealing and shading?
- Do you understand oversizing equipment will compound temperature imbalances in the home?
- Do you understand increasing air velocities in poor duct systems may dramatically increase turbulence and reduce, rather than increase air flow?
- Are duct systems surveyed where possible? Correcting deficiencies with take-offs, duct starters, tees and elbows at the furnace or air handler is far simpler during equipment replacements.
- Have installers and technicians received training on duct fitting design, so they will recognize a defect and correct it. Do they build new defects into a system (see photo)?
- Do you consider the pressure drop created by coils, pleated filters, registers, grills and dampers when selecting the replacement equipment?
- Do you insure the venting is code compliant when replacing equipment?

The dramatic increased interest in energy efficiency is evident in the high efficiency equipment produced and installed today. The very finest 96% AFUE or 20 SEER equipment will not operate correctly or efficiently if installed incorrectly. The ACCA Standards, Manual J, D, S and others are based on building sciences, not rules of thumb. Following these Standards will minimize call backs, increase efficiency and result in satisfied customers.

As we enter the Holiday Season, may each of you enjoy peace and joy with those close to you. —Brent ■

INCLUDE THE RMGA LOGO IN YOUR COMPANY COMMUNICATIONS!

Over the past several years, the Rocky Mountain Gas Association has built an impressive reputation. Because ours is a respected organization the association's name and logo constitute a strong positive identity for your organization.

Use the RMGA brand to enhance your company's name. When noted prominently in your communications, RMGA membership differentiates your company from others. It demonstrates a number of positive aspects of your company.

We also offer logo stickers to place on your truck or other work vehicle to promote RMGA!

RMGA membership proves that your company meets standards for membership; has a long-term view of the industry; supports industry improvements; protects the rights of customers and contractor; supports worker safety; and is stable.



Include the RMGA logo in all your company identification:

- Stationary
- Invoices
- Promotional Brochures
- Business Cards, etc.

Logo artwork and truck stickers for your vehicle are available at the RMGA office. For more information, call 801-521-8340 or visit our website: www.utmga.org.



PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

153 SOUTH 900 EAST, #3
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84102

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Meet the new boss.

Are you prepared if something were to happen to you? Is your successor? You deserve to transition your business to the next generation in the manner you deem best. A sound business succession plan can help protect your life's work. Call your local marketing representative or visit federatedinsurance.com to learn more.



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