



# PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

JAN/FEB 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF UTAH'S HVACR INDUSTRY

153 SOUTH 900 EAST, #3 • SLC, UT 84102 • WWW.UTRMGA.ORG

## FREE ESL Training for Gas Technicians!

RMGA and Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) are collaborating on a Pre-Certification English as a Second Language (ESL) training class to help technicians overcome language barriers in understanding HVACR terminology and concepts, as they prepare to take the RMGA Gas Technician Certification Course and Exam.

The ESL Class has both a Pre and Post training session that works in conjunction with the February Zoom RMGA Class. The ESL class is free, thanks to SLCC, with a \$200 per person deposit charged by RMGA and then refunded after proof of course completion.

Technicians will need to have access to a computer with reliable internet service.

**Sign up for  
a Zoom  
Certification  
Class! Details  
on page 3**

### Don't miss this opportunity:

#### ESL Pre-training Class:

January 20 and 21, 5:30-7:00 pm  
January 26, 27 and 28, 5:30-7:00 pm  
February 2, 3 and 4, 5:30-7:00 pm

#### RMGA Certification Class:

February 9, 10 and 11, 5:30-9:30 pm  
February 16, 17 and 18, 5:30-9:30 pm

#### ESL Post-training Class:

February 23, 24 and 25, 5:30-7:00 pm  
March 2, 5:30-7:00 pm



For any questions or to register, please contact **Bonnie Penrose, Workforce Manager, Salt Lake Community College, 801-957-5449 or [Bonnie.Penrose@slcc.edu](mailto:Bonnie.Penrose@slcc.edu)** ■

## THANK YOU ROCIO!

Rocio Soto, RMGA's Education Coordinator for nearly 4 years, is leaving us to pursue her career as a licensed Loan Originator in the mortgage industry. Rocio has made broad changes in RMGA Certification testing and training, including a move away from paper exams to on-line testing, and she developed a test voucher system that simplifies the Technical College Testing Center's processing of certification exams. Rocio also streamlined our distribution system and pushed the development of an English as a Second Language pre-class class for non-English speakers to help them prepare for certification testing. Rocio will be missed! We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and send out a heartfelt Thank You! ■



Outgoing RMGA Education Coordinator, Rocio Soto

# BOARD BRIEFING NOV & DEC 2020

In November, the board continued the discussion about the RMGA certification exam and whether it is too difficult, and if the pass rate of 80% is adequate. The board remains supportive of the overall quality and reasonableness of the exam and also what constitutes a passing score. It was mentioned that gas pipe sizing, venting and retrofit, were the major areas where students have the most difficulty, so staff is looking into whether we can determine which specific questions are missed the most to make sure those questions are not misleading or confusing, but also, we would hate to see a technician pass the exam, even though they missed every venting questions.

In both meetings, we discussed online training both as an aid to improve student's understanding of critical concepts, but also to provide continuing education credits for contractors who will need 3 hours of HVACR training before the November 2021 deadline, and in-person trainings are not taking place because of COVID.

Representatives from Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) regularly attend our board meetings and in November they shared with the board the progress made on developing an HVACR ESL (English as Second Language) prep class to introduce non-English technicians to industry terminology and basic concepts to prepare them for an RMGA Certification Class and the exam. SLCC has grant money to cover the first two classes. Additionally, SLCC has offered RMGA the use of a classroom near the Salt Lake International airport that can accommodate 20, socially-distanced students.

RMGA cancelled the in-person November Certification Class and have decided to hold the

Jamie Schumacher  
jamie@gunthers.com  
801-756-9683 ext 230



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT JAMIE SCHUMACHER

*Dear RMGA Members & Friends,*

*I want to wish each of you a Happy New Year and a great start to 2021!*

*After last year, all I can say is let's make the most of this new year!*

*From code training, certifications and legislative issues, to every day business operations and support, the RMGA is here to help. Let us know what we can do to support you and your business.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Schumacher". The signature is fluid and cursive.

next three certification classes on Zoom in January, February and March, using a 4-hour per night, 3-night per week for 2 weeks Certification Zoom class schedule.

In December, we were informed that the Utah Home Builders are proposing draft legislation for the 2021 legislative session that would allow a home builder to set up and own a separate Building Inspector Company and have that company do their building inspections. It would have to be a 3rd party company, but it would circumvent the independent city inspectors.

Davis Tech announced that they are hiring a full-time HVACR Instructor so they can start offering day classes in addition to their current evening classes.

**Our next Zoom board meeting will on January 13 at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact RMGA (john@utrmga.com) to get on the board meeting email list. ■**

# RMGA GAS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE  
WWW.UTRMGA.ORG

All Certification Classes are Currently held on Zoom!

Plan Ahead - Classes Sell Out Quickly

## FEBRUARY\*

Classes held on Zoom for **2 WEEKS**  
**4 HOURS** per night for **3 NIGHTS**  
**5:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**WEEK 1:** Tuesday, February 9  
Wednesday, February 10 &  
Thursday, February 11

**WEEK 2:** Tuesday, February 16  
Wednesday, February 17 &  
Thursday, February 18

## MARCH\*

Classes held on Zoom for **2 WEEKS**  
**4 HOURS** per night for **3 NIGHTS**  
**5:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**WEEK 1:** Tuesday, March 16  
Wednesday, March 17 &  
Thursday, March 18

**WEEK 2:** Tuesday, March 23  
Wednesday, March 24 &  
Thursday, March 25

\*These Gas Certification classes are \$400. Price includes the RMGA Study Guide, IFGC Book, online videos, Zoom instruction and two attempts at the exam (if necessary). The Zoom link will be provided the day before the classes begin. Technicians should plan on attending ALL sessions. No refunds/cancellations.

*Partial funding of RMGA training programs have been provided by the Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing from the 1% surcharge funds on all building permits.*

## GET ON BOARD IN 2021!

Attending RMGA board meetings has gotten easier, because we meet on Zoom! Join us at noon on the dates listed below to be part of the conversation regarding industry and legislative issues as well as Gas Technician certification training, testing and enforcement. **Contact [john@utrmga.com](mailto:john@utrmga.com) to get on board!**

**2021**

- Zoom Board Meeting
- Education Summit  
6 hours Continuing Education  
(Hopefully to be held in-person)

Month	Meeting Date	Event
January	13	Zoom Board Meeting
February	10	Zoom Board Meeting
March	10	Zoom Board Meeting
April	7	Zoom Board Meeting
May	5	Zoom Board Meeting
June	9	Zoom Board Meeting
July	7	Zoom Board Meeting
August	4	Zoom Board Meeting
September	8	Zoom Board Meeting
October	13	Zoom Board Meeting
November	10	Zoom Board Meeting
December	8	Zoom Board Meeting

**2021 RMGA BOARD MEETINGS:**  
**January 13**  
**February 10**  
**March 10**  
**April 7**  
**May 5**  
**June 9**  
**July 7**  
**August 4**  
**September 8**  
**October 13**  
**(Education Summit)**  
**November 10**  
**December 8**

# MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

## Return Air



### BRENT URSENBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/  
EXPERT WITNESS

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801-381-1449

AS WITH OTHER CODE DISCUSSIONS, this subject was chosen due to several recent questions received from contractors and code officials. IRC M1602 and IMC 601.5, both titled Return Air include the following summarized requirements and comments:

1. Openings shall not be located within 10' in any direction of an open combustion chamber or draft hood. *This is a life safety issue as drawing return near an open combustion appliance may impact the combustion process and/or reverse the vent, drawing products of combustion into the structure. This is not an issue with correctly installed direct vent appliances.*
2. Return air shall not be taken from a hazardous or insanitary location or a refrigerant room as defined by the code. (Refrigerant rooms with quantities exceeding those defined in Chapter 11 IMC). *Obviously, the issue here is circulating dangerous fumes and gases through occupied space.*
3. The amount of return taken from a room or space shall not be greater than the supply delivered to the same room or space. *This requirement and the next item are*

*similar, requiring a defined path from supply outlets back to a return inlet. Failure to maintain balanced pressures within a building results*



*in excessive infiltration leakage in and out of the building thermal envelope.*

4. Return and transfer openings shall be sized per ACCA Manual D, the manufacturer's instructions, or the design of a registered design professional. *Manual D gives direction with a door cut chart, which identifies the required height of the opening below a door needed to provide specific CFM flows. This was covered in a previous discussion.*
5. Return shall not be taken from a closet, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, garage, mechanical room, boiler room, furnace room, or unconditioned attic. *With the large*

*open style kitchens, great rooms, and dining rooms common today, there may not be a defined line separating the kitchen from the other rooms. In these cases, a return must maintain a 10' clearance from cooking appliances. Additionally, returns are allowed in garages only for systems dedicated to the garage, never of the system serving the occupied space. A similar exception is allowed for indoor swimming pools.*

**6.** Return from one dwelling unit shall not be discharged into another dwelling unit. *We would never consider using a common HVAC system in a new apartment building; however, too often we see single family dwellings with a basement apartment, sharing a single HVAC system. Please consider the possible spread of bacteria and viruses when return is drawn from one dwelling, then discharges into another.*

7. Return air shall not be taken from an unconditioned crawlspace or attic. *Either of these will result in significant energy waste.*

*Please continue to reach out to me with your comments or questions. Stay healthy and be safe. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. —Brent*

# YOUR BUSINESS:

## Proverbs for a Profitable 2021 HVACR Business

Successful HVACR technicians emulate top performers. Unsuccessful HVACR technicians envy and resent them.

Never apologize for making a profit. Profitability is not a sin, it's an obligation.

Your success is a reflection of the value you deliver to society. To become more successful find ways to deliver more value.

Fail to charge enough and you subsidize your customers.

Successful HVACR providers embrace business innovations while others cling to the past.

Your financial statements are your scoreboard. Without them, you do not know whether you are winning or losing.

Keep growing. Always grow. Once you stop growing, you start dying.

Social media is not a waste of time. It's a place where you can find customers, prospects and future employees.

The best customer is a repeat customer.

Training is not an expense, it's an investment with a strong, positive, short and long term return.

After-hours calls are not interruptions or burdens. They represent real people who desperately want someone to solve a problem and will pay for it.

# Meet and Get to Know: TINA McNULTY

**Q.** Tell us about your yourself. . . .

**A.** I have lived in Utah for 14 years, and I am originally from Portland, Oregon. I visit the Oregon Coast almost every summer with family.

**Q.** Tell us a bit about your past experience and how it may relate to your RMGA position. . . .

**A.** I have spent the majority of my work life in rehabilitation therapy and higher education. This is a great foundation to support RMGA members reach their professional goals through education and certification.

**Q.** If you weren't with RMGA, where would you like to be?

**A.** Doing work that enables people to meet their personal and professional goals through education and training.

**Q.** What are your favorite aspects of work?

**A.** Learning new things, connecting with people, and problem-solving.

**Q.** Do you have a motto that you live by?

**A.** The Golden Rule: Treat others as you want to be treated.

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

**A.** Iceland. I am drawn by the possibility of experiencing the magic of the Northern Lights, beautiful mountain ranges and geothermal lakes.

**Q.** What is your favorite hobby?

**A.** Cooking. It is creative and as challenging as I want to



TINA McNULTY

make it. Who can argue with the being able to eat the results? The last thing I made that I really loved was butternut squash soup.

**Yummy!**

**Q.** Do you have a favorite movie?

**A.** Too many to choose from! If I had to pick one, it would be *The Shawshank Redemption*. It's about keeping hope and grace against the

worst odds and extraordinary tenacity.

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

**A.** Anthony Bourdain, Lin Manual Miranda, and Stephen Colbert. It would be a dinner filled with talk of cooking, music, creativity, and humor!

**Q.** If you won a \$50,000,000 lottery, what would you do?

**A.** I would start a non-profit that would enable children to have more access to rehabilitation therapy, start a house-flipping business with relatives, and travel to extraordinary places like Iceland and to many states I have not been to in the USA!

**Q.** People would be surprised to know. . . .

**A.** I was named after my oldest brother's first grade teacher. A Catholic school nun that my mother admired so much she remembered her name seven years after my brother was in first grade when I was born!

*Tina can be reached on Mondays and Wednesdays at 801-521-8340, or [Tina@utrmga.com](mailto:Tina@utrmga.com)* ■

# WHAT'S IN YOUR FORECAST?

It's easy to just jump into a vehicle and head toward a destination on a sunny, calm day. But we're approaching the time of year when severe weather conditions can make the journey more complicated. Snow, ice, rain, fog, wildfire, wind — they all present considerable hazards that can come seemingly out of nowhere. A healthy respect for unpredictable weather, mixed with preparedness, could be the difference between safety and disaster behind the wheel.

Weather conditions can change from minute to minute and location to location. Even the most thorough travel plans may quickly become irrelevant — sometimes while you're on the road. To help your employees stay safe during inclement weather season, monitor your forecast daily, and prepare your vehicles and drivers appropriately.

## Keep an eye on the sky.

While weather forecasts aren't 100 percent accurate, they offer a good starting point for you and your drivers. Most meteorology services, such as the National Weather Service publish their predictions a week or more in advance and update them as conditions change. Start planning for road conditions early, but be prepared for last minute changes. If you deem the conditions too dangerous, keep your vehicles off the road.

## Keep safety top of mind.

Remind your drivers that the weather should influence how they drive. Review safe driving practices (such as turning on your lights or allowing for extra braking time) that may be necessary to mitigate the risks involved in severe weather driving.

## Communicate and educate.

Ensure drivers can reach you if conditions deteriorate, and they have up-to-date contact information for their destination. Educate them on

what to do if stranded on the side of the road. They may need to decide if it is safe to leave the vehicle or if they should stay put, attract attention or call for help, and keep themselves safe until the weather calms down.

## Equip your vehicles for emergencies.

Your company vehicles are often the only things between your employees and the elements. Outfit vehicles with weather-appropriate tires, perform needed maintenance, check windshield wipers and fluid levels, and pack an emergency kit, which could include:

- ★ Spare tire, tools
- ★ Flashlight, batteries
- ★ Matches
- ★ Shovel
- ★ Flares, reflective triangles, bright cloth
- ★ Bottled water
- ★ Jumper cables
- ★ First-aid kit
- ★ Weather-resistant facemasks
- ★ Tow/tire chains
- ★ Windshield deicer
- ★ High-energy foods
- ★ Salt or cat litter
- ★ Ice scraper, snow brush
- ★ Cold-weather clothing

Whatever the conditions outside, the weather should guide if and how your employees drive. ■



visit: [Surviveware.com](https://www.surviveware.com)



# PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## A Commitment You Can Count On

Helping protect your industry yesterday, today, and tomorrow.  
We're in it for the long haul.



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