

RMGA & Dominion Energy Push Certification in SW Wyoming

ON OCTOBER 26, Jeff Bybee with Dominion Energy, Tim Ridenour (RMGA-WY board member) and John Hill presented at an Evanston Work Session to the Mayor and City Council members on how easy it would be for the city to implement the RMGA Certification program in their city, because RMGA handles all aspects of the program, from training and testing, to maintaining the database of certified contractors.

What seemed most important to the Evanston leaders was by doing this, the knowledge and proficiency of HVACR

Technicians in the area would greatly improve, but they would need to empower the City Building Inspector with authority to check for certifications and to fine those not in compliance.

On December 13, Jeff Bybee and John Hill met with the Mayor of Rock Springs to educate him on how to implement the RMGA Certification program in Rock Springs. The mayor was provided with a copy of the Utah Statute that creates an

HVACR Certification requirement. A meeting with the Green River Council members is also in the works.



John Hill (left), Jeff Bybee (above) and Tim Ridenour (center with hat) represent RMGA at Evanston, WY Work session.

Unlike Utah, the Wyoming State Legislature is unlikely to require Certification of HVACR Technicians because there are several natural gas providers in the Wyoming, and Lower Valley Energy, in the Jackson Hole area, opposes requiring technician training and certification, because they operate their own service department in Wyoming. ■



RMGA Tech Training on Zoom in 2022!

IN 2022, RMGA WILL OFFER more Technician Training Classes, beginning with a three-part course on **“How to Read Electrical Diagrams.”** Make this training part of your company’s morning routine... Beginning on February 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., RMGA will provide FREE Zoom Tech Training. Technicians will learn how to read diagrams and to convert a pictorial diagram into a ladder schematic. Parts two and three will also be on Zoom, on March 16 from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. and on April 20 from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

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



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JAMIE SCHUMACHER

Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

With as much optimism as I can muster I wish each of you a “Happy New Year.” The last couple of years have been more trying than any of us ever would have imagined, and some of the trials are still persisting, along with the new ones emerging. Who would have ever thought that a global pandemic would cause a shortage of flex duct, along with hundreds of other seemingly simple items. Who could have ever guessed that identifying some occupations as “non-essential” would have downstream consequences (heavy sarcasm...)?

If nothing else, this pandemic has proven how reliant upon each other we all are, the world needs professionals, factory workers, delivery workers, engineers, manual laborers, and executives, plus all other workers; each one has a part to play and no one is “non-essential!”

Thomas Edison said, “There is a way to do it better. Find it.” With new understanding of how connected we all are, we need to find the better way to support and grow, no longer can we simply do what is best for ourselves, we need to band together. With that in mind, I invite you to get more involved; find an opportunity to join a cause. Specifically, inside the RMGA we have opportunities to work together to improve our industry through legislation, training, testing and networking. Innovation doesn’t just come from “inventors” it comes from normal people trying to find a better way. We can all be part of finding that better way by joining our knowledge and experience and directing our industry. The RMGA board and sub-committees are two of the best ways I know of to accomplish this!

Respectfully,

BOARD BRIEFING NOV & DEC 2021

THE BOARD APPROVED 11 HVACR Contractors as members of RMGA, and in November, activated 3 RMGA committees: the Education Committee, Certification Exam Review Committee, and an HVAC College Curriculum Alignment Committee, which is made up of school administrators from the six State schools that offer HVACR programs.

In December, the **Education Committee** reported setting Wednesday, October 12 for the 2022 Education Summit. We decided to offer two Zoom training sessions; one for Technicians, and one for Owner/Managers. Beginning **February 16**, the Education Committee will offer a 3-part **Basic Electric Workshop** from 7-8 am, with additional one-hour sessions March 16 and April 20.

The **Exam Review Committee** agreed to setup an in-person Exam Review Meeting. Certification Exam questions will be reviewed individually on a screen, not on paper, to protect the integrity of the exam. The Committee plans to hold the Exam Review meeting in January 2022.

The **Curriculum Alignment Committee** met and adopted the name **Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration**, for all six campus programs, to help potential students better understand career options, and to enhance the program visibility & recognition. In January, the committee members will focus on each programs Core Objectives that constitute 70% of the training program, and then Elective Objectives that make up the discretionary 30% of hours.

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The board decided to have a booth at the next **Pathways to Professions** recruiting event on February 1st and 2nd from 8:30 – 2:30 p.m. Past attendees expressed the need for something interactive to draw students to the booth, and new member, Whipple Champion Services offered to let RMGA use their Oculus that has a virtual learning module for basic HVACR repair, at the event.

Contractors were asked to send to RMGA any they might have on code change suggestions for the 2021 IRC.

Our next board meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wed., Jan 12. at Johnstone Supply classroom, 2940 S 300 W, SLC. Lunch is included! ■

EVERY TECHNICIAN NEEDS RMGA CERTIFICATION

IT IS STATE LAW: Every natural gas technician working for wages in Utah must be RMGA Certified! Licensed Journeyman plumbers are the only exception, and there is no such thing as a company certification. Get your technicians certified now!

RMGA GAS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

CALL 801.521.8340
OR EMAIL
RMGAUTAH@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER

January In-Person class sold out. Zoom available!

Take your Pre-Test to evaluate your readiness for the exam!

JAN. IN-PERSON
(And on Zoom)
Salt Lake City
Thursday, January 27
Friday, January 28 &
Saturday, January 29
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hercules Industries
475 N Billy Mitchell Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

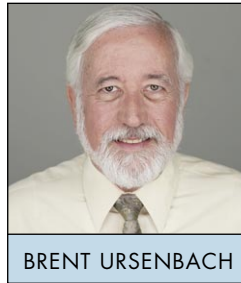
MAR. IN-PERSON
(And on Zoom)
Salt Lake City
Thursday, March 24
Friday, March 25 &
Saturday, March 26
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hercules Industries
475 N Billy Mitchell Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

MAY. IN-PERSON
(And on Zoom)
Salt Lake City
Thursday, May 12
Friday, May 13 &
Saturday, May 14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hercules Industries
475 N Billy Mitchell Road
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

All Certification Classes are \$400. Price includes the RMGA Study Guide, IFGC, online video access, 24 hours of instruction, and 2 attempts at the exam (if necessary). Technicians should attend ALL sessions. In-person attendees should bring lunch or plan to visit a local restaurant during the lunch hour. **Take the Pre-Test to evaluate your readiness for the exam at <https://utrmga.org/pre-test/>**
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.

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Condenser & Heat Pump Clearances – Impact on Cooling Capacity, Efficiency and Equipment Durability



BRENT URSENBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS

bursenbach@gmail.com
801-381-1449

BRENT URSENBACH

THE OUTDOOR SECTION FOR a central air conditioning unit and heat pump relies heavily on proper air circulation. The AC condenser fan pulls in ambient air, typically through one or more of the sides of the unit, through the condenser coil, absorbing the heat picked up at the evaporator coil inside, expelling the heat through the top or one of the sides of the unit. Heat pumps of

handlers/furnaces, coils, filters, and duct systems, unfortunately airflow through outdoor units is often ignored.

Several years ago, as I attended a ten-day code development hearing in Kansas, my trip included a stay at a Residence Inn extended stay hotel. The units were like small condos with a small furnace and AC for each unit. On the side of each multiple unit building

it's obvious the original units were not installed in accordance with clearances required by the manufacture's installation instructions. The initial installation was too close to the wall with insufficient space between units. With each successive failure, the units were replaced with physically large condensers, each doomed for poor performance, inefficient operation, and premature failure. Further compounding the problem, the property owners had added a vinyl fence, probably to hide this unsightly mess. Please note the electrical service access location for the original Trane unit as indicated by the red arrow.

The diagram on the next page is found in the installation instructions for Carrier BDP products. Other manufacturers have similar requirements, with several differences noted in the summary comments below. When is the last time you reviewed these clearances?

Summary

- The single most common issue observed is multiple units are installed too close together. All but one manufacturer requires 12" for each unit with a total of 24" between two units. Goodman requires 20" between units but does not allow 6" on one side,

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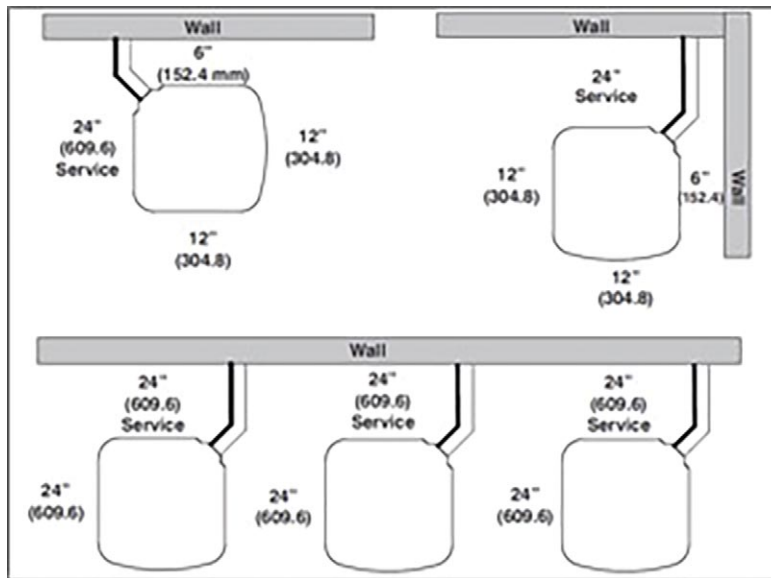
course reverse the cycle in the winter, pull heat from the outdoor air, discharge that heat to the inside of the building. While we regularly discuss the airflow inside the building, through the air

was a group of condensers....

It's apparent the small cube Trane unit is one of 6 original units for this building. By observation and previous experience installing these Trane units,

rather requires 10".
Trane does not allow 6" on any side.

- Some require 30" or 36" service clearance, while others allow as small as 18" for service access.
- Lennox requires 30" service clearance one side, one of the other three sides must have 3' clearance, with 12" on one of the remaining sides, and 6" allowed on the last side.
- Plants, fences, and other obstructions must be considered.
- A minimum clearance to obstructions above units in most cases is 5' or more. Please be



mindful of placing a unit under large, confined decks where the air will recirculate, creating a condition where the entering air temperature continually increases over time. Considering using common sense and your knowledge of the refrigeration cycle.

■ York specifically identifies a minimum 5' from a dryer vent or condensing gas appliance vent.

■ Poor airflow at the condenser coil will result in high head pressures and temperatures, reducing cooling capacity, increasing operating cost, and drastically shortening the life of the compressor.

■ Please refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions and leave them on site as required by the code and the manufacturer.

Please contact with comments or questions. Email is best.

bursenbach@gmail.com.

Happy New Year — Brent ■

45 Lessons Life Taught Me, in Celebration of Growing Older – Part 1

BY REGINA BRETT WITH THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER



1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short – enjoy it!
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special! ■



JEFF BYBEE

Meet and Get to Know: JEFF BYBEE

Q. Tell us about your company. . .

A. I'm sure all of the members are familiar with Dominion Energy. Some have a more favorable opinion than

others. (probably best to leave that part out of the article) I know that the RMGA is a valued partner to Dominion Energy.

Q. What is your position within the company?

A. I am the Manager of Region Operations for the distribution business unit in Wyoming. I am responsible for all things pertaining to the utility footprint in Wyoming as well as Rich, Summit, and Wasatch counties in Utah. The total number of customers is 65000+ served by 41 fantastic employees.

Q. If you weren't with Dominion Energy, what would you likely be doing?

A. My dream job would be a professional water fowl and upland game hunter or off roader in a fully decked out Jeep JK. I think all of us would agree that the best job would be making money doing our favorite activity.

Q. What was your most unusual work experience?

A. Oh boy there are so many interesting things that have happened over my 37-year career. Like many of you have by being in an industry where you enter people's homes and deal with customers. For a portion of my career I responded to emergency situations involving the underground part of the utility. One night, when I was on call, we received a call that there was a broken line at the cement plant in Croydon. As we headed up the canyon we noticed that the highway patrol had closed the I-84 at the Morgan exit. We could smell the gas at the exit and hear a low roar coming from up the canyon. The roar grew louder as we approached the Croydon exit. The cement plant is served by a high pressure line and meter set which operated above 300psi if I recall correctly. Night shift employees at the plant decided it might be fun to race the large dump trucks around the property. One of the drivers misjudged the space between one of the structures and our high pressure meter set and ended up high centered on top of the meter set breaking it off causing a 4" full opening screaming gas out of it at 300+ psi. Needless to say it was an exciting night. Also as a young, innocent 18-year-old meter reader I was propositioned by a prostitute on Ogden's famous 25th street.

Q. What are your favorite aspects of your job?

A. Helping and watching our people and teams in the region grow and have successes.

Q. Do you have a motto to live by?

A. The one I apply in my position is one that I am surprised more leaders don't understand and apply. It is "Take care of your people and they will take care of your business for you." It is so simple in concept and when you do it you spend less time "managing" giving you more time to focus and be a servant leader to your team.

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

A. I really enjoy all that the good ole United States of America has to offer so it would be to continue to discover all the cool places here at home.

Q. What is your favorite hobby? When did you last do it?

A. Shooting flying things with a shotgun. I'm not sure when the article will come out but the last time doing this will probably be the weekend before this publication.

Q. Tell us about your hidden talent.

A. Hiding my talents.

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

A. Keep a million for myself. Pay off my parents and kids homes. Invest the rest and use the money earned to find people who have severe medical issues but don't have the money to get the help they need and then provide the money for them. That would leave about \$45,000,000 which I would keep invested never dipping into it so the assistance to others could go on for a very long time.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie?

A. Anything with John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, or Lee Marvin in it.

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

A. Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and Moses. Just to sit at their feet and learn.

Q. People would be surprised to know . . .

A. I studied martial arts under Elvis's good friend and un-paid body guard. Mr. Ed Parker would not allow Elvis to pay him for his services because if he did Elvis could fire him. Mr. Parker told Elvis that he wanted to be able to tell him if he was being a jerk or being dumb and Elvis could do nothing about it if he wasn't a paid employee. ■

Jeff Bybee is with Dominion Energy. He can be reached at Jeff.Bybee@Dominionenergy.com.

Will Your Life Insurance Policy Die Before You Do?



Most business owners spend hours monitoring the important things in their life — things like employee payroll, inventory management, and equipment

maintenance all get done because the consequences of ignoring them could be costly. Unfortunately, what many people don't realize is that their life insurance should be regularly reviewed and managed as well.

When was the last time you reviewed your life insurance program? Taking into account the differences between term insurance and permanent insurance, you should review policy basics including named beneficiaries, rider benefits, and billed premium amount. Changes in interest rates, premium payments, or policy loan balances over the years can impact the performance of a permanent policy and deserves attention. The reality is the average consumer may not understand how their life insurance policy works or how it's performing over time.

Without regular review, it may be difficult to answer important questions about your policy. For example:

- Are the beneficiary designations still correct?
- On permanent policies, has the crediting interest rate changed?
- Have you ever missed or changed the amount of a premium payment, not received a dividend, or taken a loan?
- Most importantly, does the amount of coverage, purpose, and the projected duration still match your goals?

Without knowing the answers to these questions, it's hard to know if your policy will be there when you need it for the reason you bought it. Your policy may be performing very differently today than what you expected based on illustrations you received when you purchased the policy. So, what's the solution? Ask for an annual life insurance policy review. This is an opportunity to review your current coverage and needs. The goal is to identify any gaps in your



insurance program and take any corrective action that may be needed.

To review your policies you need to gather up your policy, the last annual statement, and any inforce projections you have and share it with your insurance advisor. They can provide the following to make sure your coverage still meets your objectives:

- An analysis of your policy's current and projected performance
- An understanding of current riders and benefits
- Potential coverage and premium options depending on performance

You already allocate significant resources towards your insurance plan — isn't it worth a few minutes to make sure it's meeting your needs and will continue to be there when you need it? To help avoid unexpected surprises, take these important steps to review your policies today. ■

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