



PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

JUL/AUG 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF UTAH'S HVACR INDUSTRY

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

Participate in the 2024 RMGA Wage Survey!

RMGA is compiling a Wage and Service Charge Survey (see page 7). Please participate, and you will receive the final report. General Results will be shared at the Education Summit. **Complete and return the survey by August 31.**

Pre-order RMGA Spanish Language Certification Study Guides! Books ship on July 8th for \$100, with free shipping!

RMGA EDUCATION SUMMIT Wednesday, September 11, 2024

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

**RMGA
EDUCATION
SUMMIT
2024**

SHERATON HOTEL SLC

AGENDA

See
Registration
Form on
Back Page!

- 7:10 AM — Continental Breakfast & Horse Racing Forms
- 8:00 - 8:05 AM — Welcome and Introductions
Scott Carpenter, President – RMGA
- 8:05 - 9:00 AM — Economic Outlook for 2025
Ben Crabb, Chief Economist for Utah's Workforce Services
- 9:00 - 10:30 AM — State Residential Code Changes 2024 (Part 1)
Brent Ursebach, Code Consultant
- 10:30 - 10:40 AM — Morning Break & Horse Racing Game (Race 1)
- 10:40 AM - 12:00 PM — State Residential Code Changes 2024 (Part 2)
Brent Ursebach, Code Consultant
- 12:00 - 12:40 PM — Buffet Lunch & Horse Racing Game (Race 2)
- 12:45 - 1:15 PM — Federated Insurance — Employment Related Liability
- 1:15 - 1:55 PM — Lien Law Review & Residential Lien Recovery Fund
- 1:55 - 2:00 PM — Horse Racing Game (Race 3)
- 2:00 - 2:20 PM — Tech Colleges — HVAC Programs & Apprenticeships
- 2:20 - 2:30 PM — Horse Racing Winner Prizes Awarded / Closing Remarks

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.

Golf Shirt for Each Attendee!



Learn Manual J, D, and S Design Practices 3-Day Series
Prices: \$350/Contractor • \$150/Inspector

BECOME ACCA CERTIFIED!



Price includes:
All Manuals (including Manual T),
a Duct Calculator,
Instruction & Lunches
all 3 days!



Join Ed Janowiak, ACCA's manager of HVAC design education, to learn how to perform a proper HVAC design with or without design software.

Manual J: Tuesday, September 24
Manual D: Wednesday, September 25
Manual S: Thursday, September 26

ALL CLASSES 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: Hercules Industries
475 N Billy Mitchell Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Register by emailing RMGAUTAH@gmail.com or calling 801-521-8340

Scott Carpenter
scott@legendsmechanical.com
801-599-8563 Utah
208-466-1773 Idaho



**MESSAGE
FROM OUR
PRESIDENT**
SCOTT CARPENTER

Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

It looks like we are finally moving out of spring and into summer. We generally find this to be the busy time of our year. I would like to see all of us remembering that we need to stay safe out in the field. Warm days can be great compared to months of cold weather; however, if we are not taking care of ourselves, just like our equipment, we can break down. Please encourage your team to stay hydrated and watch out for each other.

I would also hope to see the word spread about our education summit. This gives a contractor all the needed hours of continuing education that is needed for our license. Also, I'd like to point out that we have upcoming in-person and zoom certification classes in July and September. This not only is required in our field, but also shows your team you are willing to invest in them.

Please take time to read the "Mechanical Code Discussion" provided by Brent Ursenbach in each issue. Brent is an outstanding asset and reference point of knowledge. These articles are a great way to improve the knowledge of our own industry at no cost to us. Stay cool and have a great summer!

Thanks!

RMGA BOARD BRIEFING MAR/APR 2024

The RMGA Spanish Language Certification Study Guide will be available on July 5th, with free shipping on July 8th!

Lance Ball reported that the Wyoming Legislature has made Housing Production and Contractor Licensure an Interim study item, and Lance has been asked to participate in the meetings.

RMGA has become an ICC Education Preferred Provider, so that our classes will appear on their website, where building inspectors search for continuing education.

We finalized pricing for our ACCA 2024 Manual J, D, S class series, September 24-26 at Hercules Industries in Salt Lake.

We also finalized our speakers for the RMGA 2024 Education Summit, September 11th at The Salt Lake Sheraton Downtown. Receive all six hours of Continuing Education needed for license renewal.

The June 12th board meeting was cancelled. **The next RMGA board meeting is on ZOOM, at 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, July 10th. Everyone is welcome! ■**

Read every **Mechanical Code Discussion** article on-line at: utrmga.org/mechanical-code-articles Each article since 2009 is searchable by year or keyword. Take advantage of this amazing resource!

RMGA GAS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

You can now request registration on the new RMGA website: <https://utrmga.org/certification>

CALL 801.521.8340
OR EMAIL
RMGAUTAH@GMAIL.COM
TO REGISTER



JULY IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, July 11
Friday, July 12 &
Saturday, July 13
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

SEPT IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, September 26
Friday, September 27 &
Saturday, September 28
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

NOV IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, November 14
Friday, November 15 &
Saturday, November 16
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dominion Energy CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

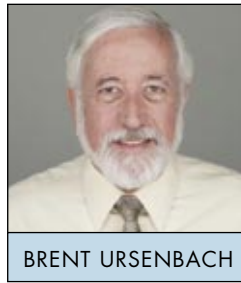
All Certification Classes are \$400. Price includes the RMGA Study Guide, IFGC, online video access, 24 hours of instruction, and 2 attempts at the exam (if necessary). Technicians should attend ALL sessions. In-person attendees should bring lunch or plan to visit a local restaurant during the lunch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

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

**Pre-order RMGA
Spanish Language
Certification
Study Guides!
Books ship on
July 8th for
\$100, with free
shipping!**

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

2021 IRC: Duct Sealing



BRENT URSEBACH

BRENT URSEBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS

bursenbach@gmail.com

801-381-1449

True or False: *Duct sealing is not important when the duct is inside the thermal envelope, as there is no leakage to outside.*

Hopefully your response is False. Over the past several years, Mitch Richardson with Building Science West and I have tested duct systems in six problem homes where the duct system leakage rate was excessive to the point that we could not attain the 25-pascal test pressure. In most cases, the system was moving design airflow through the air handler/furnace; however, the design airflow was not measured at the supply outlets or return inlets. The comfort level in the homes was unacceptable, often varying 8-10 degrees throughout the home, simply because the heated or cooled air was not reaching the areas it was needed.

The attached are my photos from two of those homes. The leakage in the panned return chase, installed to pull return from several inlets located at the main floor ceiling resulted in an airflow of 5% of the design CFM. In the other photo, the installer applied sealer only where he expected the inspector would see it.

IRC 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.

IRC M1601.4.1 Joints, seams and connections.

Longitudinal and transverse joints, seams and connections in metallic and nonmetallic ducts shall be constructed as specified in SMACNA HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible and NAIMA Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards. Joints, longitudinal and transverse seams, and connections in ductwork shall be securely fastened and sealed with welds, gaskets, mastics (adhesives), mastic-plus-embedded-fabric systems, liquid sealants or tapes.



Please note the code specifies all ducts servicing heating cooling and ventilation equipment, which includes supply, return, exhaust, combustion, and make-up air; any air we move into, out off, or within a building.

IRC N1103.3.4 (R403.3.4) Sealing (energy).

Ducts, air handlers and filter boxes shall be sealed. Joints and seams shall comply with Section M1601.4.1. N1103.3.4.1 (R403.3.4.1) Sealed air handler. Air handlers shall have a manufacturer's designation for an air leakage of not greater than 2 percent of the design airflow rate when tested in accordance with ASHRAE 193. ➔



➔ The energy portion of the code (IRC and IECC) further requires leakage testing of all duct systems inside or outside the thermal envelope; however, a new amendment effective July 1, 2024, only requires leakage testing when the furnace/air handler, or any

portion of the duct system is located outside the thermal envelope. Watch for additional discussion on this in the future, including at our upcoming RMGA Education Summit, Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

How often is the basement cold in the summertime, due to excessive supply leakage into the basement, where the cooling load is minimal? Would comfort improve if the cool air was delivered to the areas it was needed? ■

I need to extend a thank you to many of you who wrote letters of support in the past year, as I moved through the process of renewing a state contract to continue to provide energy/mechanical training and other resources supporting building energy efficiency. As of last month, I have a contract in place to continue assisting you with code interpretations and questions. Please continue to share your thoughts and ask questions, as I use each in the development of class curriculum. Success to each of you!

—Brent

Who is Counting on You to Secure the Future of Your Business?

Your business provides employees with a career, customers with quality services, and your family with financial security. Protect your life's work with the help of Federated's network of independent estate planning attorneys.

AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER BENEFIT FOR 119 YEARS
DIRECT LOCAL MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES AUTO
PROPERTY AND CASUALTY SELF-INSURED RETENTION
POLICYHOLDER SURPLUS LIVE VOICE CUSTOMER SERVICE
MYSHIELD* TAILORED, INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC COVERAGE
BUSINESS SUCCESSION AND ESTATE PLANNING STABLE
FACE-TO-FACE RELATIONSHIPS FINANCIAL STRENGTH
MUTUAL COMPANY DIRECT CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES
500+ EXCLUSIVE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS
ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEYS NETWORK ANNUITIES

IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO PROTECT
RMGA MEMBERS

WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER LIFE AND DISABILITY INCOME
PRIVATE SCHOOL PLANS KEY PERSON COVERAGE
WORKERS COMPENSATION HIRING PRACTICES
FEDERATED CHANGEMATE™ TELEMATICS SOLUTIONS
RISK MANAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTER
EMPLOYMENT RELATED PRACTICES LIABILITY
EMPLOYMENT LAW ATTORNEY NETWORK
BONDING EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING
RISK MANAGEMENT ACADEMY
CLIENT CONTACT CENTER
FIELD RISK CONSULTANTS
CERTIFICATE CENTER
SURETY SPECIALISTS
FINANCIAL CENTER
CROSS

Scan to learn more
about **BUSINESS
SUCCESSION AND
ESTATE PLANNING**
support.

Commercial Insurance | Property & Casualty | Life & Disability Income | Workers Compensation | Business Succession and Estate Planning | Bonding
 Federated Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries** | federatedinsurance.com
 23.04 EA 12/22 *View A.M. Best Rating Guide information at www.aambest.com. **Not licensed in all states. © 2022 Federated Mutual Insurance Company

Is a Fire Hazard Lurking within Your Lithium-Ion Batteries?

Lithium-ion batteries power everything from laptops and smartphones to power tools and vehicles with efficiency and portability. However, their widespread use comes with significant risks, as these batteries are causing a growing number of workplace fires.

Thermal Runaway Dangers

The convenience of lithium-ion batteries masks a potentially dangerous downside. A phenomenon known as "thermal runaway" can occur when improper use, storage, or charging leads to a cell failure within the battery. Once initiated, thermal runaway produces heat faster than it can be dissipated, potentially leading to explosions, smoke, and fire. The fires caused by these batteries can be challenging to extinguish, sometimes requiring thousands of gallons of water and posing the risk of reignition over subsequent hours or days.

Fire Prevention Strategies

To help mitigate risks, consider the following guidelines:



- **Use Certified Equipment:**

Ensure that batteries, chargers, and devices are listed by a qualified testing laboratory, such as UL, and avoid low-quality aftermarket replacements.

- **Adhere to Manufacturer Guidelines:**

For storage, use, and charging, following the manufacturer's instructions can significantly reduce the likelihood of battery failure.

- **Inspect Equipment Regularly:**

Check batteries and devices for damage before use. Cracks, bulging, leaks, elevated temperatures, or any indication of distress warrant immediate removal from service.

- **Maintain Proper Storage:**

Conduct all battery charging away from combustible materials, and keep batteries and devices in

cool, dry places. Ensure charged devices are removed from chargers once full to prevent overcharging.

- **Ensure Safe Disposal:**

Damaged batteries should be placed in a fire-resistant container away from combustibles and disposed of in accordance with instructions from a battery recycling center.

By fostering a culture of safety and awareness around the potential hazards of these batteries, you can play an important role in minimizing risks and ensuring a safer work environment for everyone.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. ©2024 Federated Mutual Insurance Company.

Published Date: May 20, 2024

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GAS ASSOCIATION WAGE AND SERVICE CHARGE SURVEY



The RMGA Board of Directors would like you to answer this questionnaire about wages and customer service charges. The information will be compiled and reported to RMGA members and those who participate in the survey. **All responses will remain anonymous and held in strict confidence with only average, aggregate numbers reported.**

How many employees do you have? _____ How many technicians? _____

<u>JOB DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>BASE HOURLY WAGE</u>		<u>WAGES PAID ON BILLED HOURS</u>	
	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Service Technician Apprentice	_____	_____	_____	_____
Service Technician Journeyman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Service Technician Foreman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Residential HVAC Installer - Apprentice	_____	_____	_____	_____
Residential HVAC Installer - Journeyman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Residential HVAC Installer - Foreman	_____	_____	_____	_____
Receptionist	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dispatcher	_____	_____	_____	_____

FRINGE BENEFITS (circle best answer)

Paid Time Off: _____ 1 week _____ 2 weeks _____ 3 weeks; Vested after 1, 3, 5, ___ years
 How many Paid Holidays do you provide? _____ Any Paid Sick Days? _____
 Payroll Period: _____ Weekly _____ Bi-Weekly _____ Monthly

Do you provide Health Insurance? _____ Yes _____ No
 How much does the Company pay? _____ % Employee Only _____ % Employee & Family

Do you provide uniforms? _____ Yes _____ No
 Do you allow Employees to take company trucks home? _____ Yes _____ No
 Do you offer _____ Commissions _____ Profit Sharing _____ Retirement _____ Other

Have you increased wages in the last two years? _____ Yes _____ No
Have you increased benefits in the last two years? _____ Yes _____ No

SERVICE CHARGE SURVEY

Do you primarily charge an **Hourly Rate** or a **Flat Rate** (circle best answer)
 What is your hourly customer rate for a Journeyman technician _____
 Do you charge portal to portal _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how much? _____
 Do you add a truck or diagnosis charge separately? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how much? _____
 Do you charge mileage when going out of town? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how much? _____
 Do you charge extra for overtime? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how much? _____
 Do you charge extra for after hours or weekends? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how much? _____

TRAINING

Do you pay technicians for industry related training? _____ Yes _____ No What percent? _____
 Do you hire apprentices? _____ Yes _____ No How many? _____
 Do you want to sponsor an apprentice? _____ Yes _____ No How many? _____

Please return this completed form to RMGA by August 31st. Send by email: utrmga@gmail.com, or fax: 801-521-8360, or mail: RMGA, 153 S 900 E, #3, SLC, UT 84102



PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO: RMGA • 153 SOUTH 900 EAST, #3 • SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84102
Fax to: 801-521-8360 or Email to: utrmga@gmail.com

RMGA EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024 REGISTRATION FORM • SEP 11, 2024

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11



SHERATON HOTEL SLC

company name _____

address/city/state/zip _____

email _____

contractor # _____ phone # _____

registration fees:

RMGA MEMBERS ONLY @ \$100 _____

Additional Attendees @ \$75 _____

Continuing Education Credit Fee @ \$15 _____

Tech College Student @\$25 _____

Building Inspectors FREE! But Must Register

sponsorship opportunities:

GOLD _____ @ \$600

SILVER _____ @ \$400

BRONZE _____ @ \$200

GOLD \$600

- Sign with company name displayed prominently at all functions
- Convention registration for 3
- 8 minutes during Member Meeting to promote your business
- Special recognition in RMGA Pipeline Newsletter

SILVER \$400

- Sign with company name displayed prominently at all functions
- Convention registration for 2
- 2 minutes during Member Meeting to promote your business
- Special recognition in RMGA Pipeline Newsletter

BRONZE \$200

- Sign with company name displayed prominently at all functions
- Convention registration for 1
- Special recognition in RMGA Pipeline Newsletter

Continuing Education Available:
3 Hours CORE & 3 Hours PRO
Contractor License Renewal due:
November 30, 2023

check box for CE

Names of Attendees from Same Company:

total amount due: _____
for credit/debit payment:

Pay with Credit Card by calling Amy @ RMGA office between 10 AM & 4 PM
on Mondays or Wednesdays at 801-521-8340