



PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

MAR/APR 2026

THE NEWSLETTER OF UTAH'S HVACR INDUSTRY

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

Fights broke out during Sweetheart Social!

LUCKILY, THE FIGHTS DURING the RMGA Sweetheart Social were on the ice, during the Utah Mammoths' victory over the Canadian Canucks at the Delta Center on February 2nd. Nick Schmaltz scored a hat trick (three goals) and two assists in the 6-2 victory!

After a light dinner at the association office, 24 RMGA members filled three rows above center ice, where we cheered together, and after the first period, 10 lucky winners wore

home souvenir Mammoth Hockey jerseys!

“Now that was fun!” stated past president, Jamie Schumacher, which captured the sentiment of everyone in attendance. ■

This Fall, RMGA will offer a Spanish language, 3-day Certification Class in Salt Lake and on ZOOM!



Alec Acevedo, left and Harland Reist, right. Federated was our dinner sponsor.





MESSAGE FROM OUR INCOMING PRESIDENT

ADAM MERRITT

ADAM MERRITT
adam@abtmechanical.com

Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

I am often struck by how much of our impact in Utah goes unseen. We are the silent stewards of home comfort and public safety, yet many in our communities only think of us when a furnace fails or a shower unexpectedly turns cold. To ensure the long-term health of our industry and the safety of our neighbors, we need to shift the narrative. It is time we step out from behind the shadows of our service vans to focus on Public Awareness.

We are the experts that Utahns rely on, but that expertise only carries weight if the public understands the value of hiring RMGA-certified professionals. I am asking each of you to help us amplify our message through three key channels:

The power of word of mouth should not be underestimated, a conversation at a job site or a community event could bring awareness and knowledge that could otherwise have been missed. Explain why we do what we do—why proper venting matters, why gas lines need to be properly sized prior to adding a new range or fire-pit, and why professional standards are non-negotiable.

Your website is your digital storefront. I encourage you to prominently feature your RMGA affiliation and our shared commitment to safety and excellence. Use your platforms to educate your customers before they even pick up the phone. From your social media posts to your email signatures, let your clients know that you are part of a larger mission to keep Utah safe and comfortable.

When we raise public awareness, we aren't just "marketing"—we are educating. In a state with such an influx of new residents there are so many who are unaware of the requirements needed for a contractor to legally perform certain duties, the RMGA certification is not "recommended" but rather Utah state law requires it. An uneducated consumer and/or contractor is a safety risk to us all. By speaking with one voice, we ensure that Utah homeowners as well as prospective members understand the difference between "getting it done" and "getting it done right", and that starts with the RMGA.

Our collective reputation is built one conversation at a time. By advocating for the trades and the RMGA, you aren't just growing your business; you are elevating the entire profession across the state of Utah.

Thank you for being the best ambassadors our industry could ask for.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Merritt'.

RMGA BOARD BRIEFING JAN/FEB 2026

The RMGA's "Ask the Expert" web page is live, and features Brent Ursenbach's profile and all his mechanical code articles.

In January, board members were sent New Member Info packets that include promotional materials, news articles, contact information and a challenge coin. They are to hand out to potential new members and inspectors. Contact Rachel@utrmga.com to request a few packets.

Following up on a board suggestion, RMGA has a list of 600+ S350 license holders (from 2024-2025), who we will be inviting to join the association, and also informing them about our code of ethics, and license restrictions.

Concerns were raised about landscapers across the State, installing underground gas lines without proper training and certification. Report these incidents to DOPL, or to RMGA and we will follow up.

The board discussed green stickers for gas appliances, which remain necessary for compliance and safety, with building inspectors still enforcing their use. While the green sticker is not code-mandated, it serves as a verification of proper altitude derating, and are available from Enbridge Gas.

It was reported that Wyoming has a budget year this legislative session, so any RMGA Certification bills would be introduced in 2027.

The board was briefed on legislative updates, including an energy code bill that will remove Chapter 11 from the IRC, and simplify measurements; drafting was still in progress.

It was also reported that the Department of Energy continues to support the ResCheck 2012 tool, contrary to earlier assumptions.

The board agreed to offer a Spanish

language certification class, in the early Fall, and recording the three sessions so RMGA can offer Spanish videos in the future.

Our February board meeting was held on February 25, 2026, **and an in-person meeting will be held on April 8th at Johnstone Supply. All members are welcome to attend!**

**HOT IDEAS,
COOL SOLUTIONS**
CAESARS PALACE | LAS VEGAS, NV

ACCA 2026 is the premier annual education and networking event for HVACR contractors.

- BUSINESS
- LEADERSHIP
- HVACR TECHNICAL

acca2026.com

**ACCA
2026**
MARCH 15-18
LAS VEGAS

MECHANICAL CODE

Underground Gas Pipe Code Requirements

IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION, we addressed the sizing of underground plastic gas piping, noting that the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) tables are somewhat limited, as they offer sizing data only for pressures up to 2 psi and lengths up to 500 feet. In this issue, we will examine several IFGC code requirements pertaining to underground gas line installations. PLEASE review these sections and others not specifically mentioned for further details and exceptions. Also note, CSST manufacturer's offer CSST factor installed with code compliant sleeve, that may be used underground. Of course, you'll find the identical requirements in **IRC Chapter 24 – Fuel Gas.**

403.5 Plastic pipe, tubing and fittings.

Polyethylene plastic pipe, tubing and fittings used to supply fuel gas shall conform to ASTM D2513. Such pipe shall be marked "Gas"

and "ASTM D2513." Polyamide pipe, tubing and fittings shall be identified and conform to ASTM F2945. Such pipe shall be marked "Gas" and "ASTM F2945."

The IFGC does not allow other plastic pipes including PVC, CPVC or PEX.

403.10 Plastic pipe, joints and fittings.

Plastic pipe, tubing and fittings shall be joined in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Details include requirements for pull-out resistance, heat-fusion and compression-type mechanical joints. When used for LP gas, compliance with NFPA is required.

404.6 Underground penetrations prohibited.

Gas piping shall not penetrate building foundation walls at any point below grade. Gas piping shall enter and exit a building at a point above grade and the annular space between the pipe and the

wall shall be sealed.

For example, a gas line from a house to an accessory building (detached garage) must leave the house above grade and enter the garage through an above grade wall.

404.12 Minimum burial depth.

Underground piping systems shall be installed at a minimum depth of 12 inches (305 mm) below grade, except as provided for in Section 404.12.1.

Please note the 12" depth is a minimum, which in my opinion needs a code change. Use wisdom and common sense, installing lines through flower beds, lawn and garden areas at least 18" or 24" below final grade. Correctly installing an anodeless risers will typically require a 24" depth.

404.14 Piping underground beneath buildings.

Piping installed underground beneath buildings is prohibited

DISCUSSION



BRENT URSENBACH

BRENT URSENBACH

**HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS**

bursenbach@gmail.com
801-381-1449

except where the piping is encased in a conduit of wrought iron, plastic pipe, steel pipe, a piping or encasement system listed for installation beneath buildings, or other approved conduit material designed to withstand the superimposed loads. The conduit shall be protected from corrosion in accordance with Section 404.11 and shall be installed in accordance with Section 404.14.1 or 404.14.2.



An example of this is a gas line to a gas range or cooktop on a kitchen island. If both ends of the line are within the home, the sleeve must be open and have access to both ends of the sleeve. If one end terminates inside the building and the other outside, the inside end must be sealed, while the outdoor termination must be

open to the atmosphere, but protected from the entrance of water and insects.

If for any reason you are considering metallic underground pipe gas lines, see IFGC 404.11 and my code discussion 16 years ago in the January/February Pipeline.

404.17.3 Tracer.

A yellow insulated copper tracer wire or other approved conductor,

or a product specifically designed for that purpose, shall be installed adjacent to underground

nonmetallic piping.

Access shall be provided to the tracer wire, or the tracer wire shall terminate above ground at each end of the nonmetallic piping. The tracer wire size shall be not less than 18 AWG and the insulation type shall be suitable for direct burial.

Too often we focus on gas pipe sizing, failing to follow the critical

installation requirements. We must do all we can to ensure all our gas pipe installations provide a reasonable level of safety, health, property protection and general welfare.

Thanks for your continued support, comments and questions.

—Brent

Meet and Get to Know: TRAVIS WILCOX

Q. Tell us about your company.

A. Kodiak Air is a small HVAC company based in West Valley, Utah that is trying to save fellow Utahns from the dishonest thieves in the industry.

Q. If you weren't an HVACR Contractor, what would you like to be?

A. I would've been a shortstop for the Atlanta Braves.

Q. Do you have a motto to live by?

A. Do good work honestly.

Q. What is your worst habit?

A. I don't know how bad it is, but I like to gamble on sports as a side job.



TRAVIS WILCOX

Q. What is your favorite hobby?

A. Gambling on sports is also one of my favorite hobbies along with chess and target shooting.

Q. What is the first thing you do when you get home from work?

A. Give the dog a Milkbone and the cat some Temptations treats.

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

A. Hopefully I'd be smart enough to contact a certified financial consultant. Most

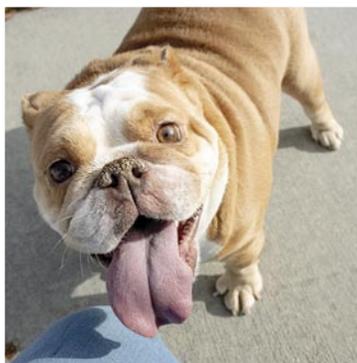
likely I'd just buy a car that I would hardly ever drive.

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

A. Alexander the Great, always fascinated by him. Alfred the Great fought off the Vikings and set the unification of England in motion. Boudica, the original bad ass that unified the

Celts and took on the Roman Empire.

Travis Wilcox can be reached at Kodiak Heating and Air:
kodiakhvacutah.com ■



2026 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



MAR IN PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, March 12
Friday, March 13 &
Saturday, March 14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Enbridge Gas CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

MAY IN PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, May 7
Friday, May 8 &
Saturday, May 9
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Enbridge Gas CTC Room
1000 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

JUL IN PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, July 9
Friday, July 10 &
Saturday, July 11
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Enbridge Gas 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/certification/pretest>**

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.

**RMGA Spanish
Language
Certification
Study Guides are
available for
\$125, with free
shipping!**



PIPELINE

FUEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1-Day and 2 1/2-Day RMAs



**Benefit From
Group Discussions
And Experiences**



The Federated Insurance Risk Management AcademySM is your one-stop-shop for creating a culture of risk management at your business. Learn to tackle industry challenges, connect with peers, and apply best practices with helpful takeaways.



Scan to learn more about how Federated's[®] RMAs can help you create a culture of risk management through industry-specific offerings.

The content of this publication is for general information purposes only and should not be considered legal advice or an offer of insurance. Coverage will be determined solely by the terms of your policy, if approved for issue. Consult with a qualified professional to discuss questions specific to your circumstances.

**Federated Mutual Insurance Company
and its subsidiaries***

federatedinsurance.com | *Not licensed in all states.

25.04 Ed. 1/26 © 2026 Federated Mutual Insurance Company