

RICK CARMAN HONORED AT EDUCATION SUMMIT!

RMGA CONTRACTORS CAME TOGETHER at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Salt Lake City on September 24th for RMGA's annual Education Summit. **81 attendees enjoyed networking with each other, playing the RMGA Derby horse racing game, and receiving some excellent education.**

Highlights included Robert Spendlove with Zions Bank dissecting our economic reality, DOPL's Bob Main explaining what is being done to clean up contracting in Utah. Brent Urnsbach reviewed State Code changes and Ryan Rentmeister explained the principles and procedures covered in ACCA Manuals J, D, and S.

Rick Carman, RMGA's longest serving board member (1978-2025) was honored with a Distinguished Service Award prior to our BBQ lunch. Rick shared several of his memories of challenges UHACCA/RMGA has faced through the years.

A third of all attendees took home a raffle prize, and everyone earned 6 hours of continuing education needed to renew their contractor licenses.

You will find more photos of this year's Ed Summit on the back page of this issue!

Thanks go out to our sponsors and everyone who attended. Contact

John@utrmga.com if you would like to be on next year's Education Summit planning committee or have a suggestion for education topics. ■



CHALLENGE COIN CHALLENGE!

Education Summit attendees were given challenge coins and encouraged to share them with employees who have done exceptional work, or to non-members encouraging them to join RMGA.



If you missed the Summit but would like to take part in the RMGA Challenge Coin Challenge, email John@utrmga.com and ask for some coins. We encourage everyone to participate in this **free member benefit.**



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SCOTT CARPENTER



Dear RMGA Members & Friends,

I would like to take this moment to thank our entire association for all the effort everyone has put into driving our industry forward. We just recently had another great education summit with some great speakers and topics. I would like to thank John Hill for all his efforts in putting that together for us! I encourage anyone to get involved and let us know where you would like to see our focus turn too. We are always looking for new ideas and education opportunities.

It has been a busy summer, and we are watching our industry change in real time. I hope everyone has stayed out in front of the changes. As we move towards 2026, I hope to see our association further move into Wyoming and create great partnerships with contractors in that state. I would also like to see RMGA continue to bring great educational opportunities to our members. I think all of this can be done with support of every member of this association! Please go out and spread our message to all your fellow contractors and maybe give out a few Challenge coins.

Please stay safe and have a great holiday season.

RMGA BOARD BRIEFING SEP/OCT 2025

There were no RMGA board meetings in September or October this year, because the Education Summit was late in September, but **everyone is invited to the November RMGA Zoom board meeting, on November 12th beginning at 11:00 a.m.**

Use this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83279202030?pwd=qyiddzWEnykthnm7rGP8CPp7P0Bywe.1>

We have invited Dave Hill with UPHCA to discuss RMGA joining the **Utah Subcontractor Alliance (USA)**, a collective voice of subcontractors, suppliers and industry partners in Utah. The goal of USA is joint legislative advocacy and fundraising for a State Subcontractor PAC fund.

And don't miss the December in-person RMGA board meeting at 11:00 a.m. on December 10th at Johnstone Supply (2940 S 300 W, SLC). Lunch is served prior to the meeting.

Challenge someone to come to a Board Meeting! ■



2025 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



NOV IN-PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

Thursday, November 13
Friday, November 14 &
Saturday, November 135
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

JAN 2026 IN PERSON

(And on Zoom)

Salt Lake City

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

Hercules Industries
3260 South 900 West
South Salt Lake, Utah 84115

MAR 2026 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

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.

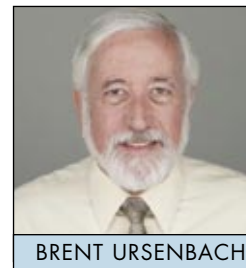
**RMGA Spanish
Language
Certification
Study Guides are
available for
\$125, with free
shipping!**

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

LP Gas Licensing & Certification: Recent Questions and Timely Discussion

BRENT URSENBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS
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801-381-1449



BRENT URSENBACH

FOLLOWING THE RMGA EDUCATION SUMMIT, I was approached with several inquiries regarding licensing for liquid petroleum (LP) gas. This subject is relatively new for many in our industry, and it has generated considerable interest and concern.

The increasing number of residential developments in rural areas makes the conversation around LP gas licensing particularly relevant right now. As communities expand beyond urban centers, understanding the requirements and processes for LP gas certification and licensing has become essential.



Department of Public Safety
Utah State Fire Marshal's Office

The following is a summary of information found on the Fire Marshal's Office website:

<https://firemarshal.utah.gov/licensing-and-certification/liquified-petroleum-gas/>

Licenses Required

- *Class I: A licensed dealer who is engaged in the business of installing gas appliances or systems for the use of LPG and who sells, fills, refills, delivers, or is permitted to deliver any LPG.*
- *Class II: A business engaged in the sale, transportation, and exchange of cylinders, but not transporting or transferring gas in liquid.*

- *Class III: A business not engaged in the sale of LPG but engaged in the sale and installation of gas appliances, or LPG systems.*

- *Class IV: Those businesses listed below:*

- *Sale of containers greater than 96 pounds water capacity.*
- *Other LPG businesses not listed above.*

An application for the original or renewal license shall be made on forms provided by the SFM. The application for a license to engage in the business of LPG shall be accompanied by proof of public liability insurance. The public liability insurance shall be issued by a public liability insurance carrier showing coverage of at least \$1,000,000 for each incident, and \$2,000,000 in total coverage.

Certificate of Registration

Application for an LPG certificate shall be made in writing to The Utah State Fire Marshal. The application shall be signed by the applicant.

The applicant shall pass an initial examination with a score of 70 percent or greater.

Types of Initial Examinations:

- *Carburetion*
- *Dispenser*
- *LP Gas Basic Filling Procedures for Exam*

- *HVAC/Plumber*
- *Recreational Vehicle Service*
- *Serviceman*
- *Transportation and Delivery*

The initial examination shall include an open book written test of the applicant's knowledge of the work to be performed. The applicant is allowed to use the adopted statute, administrative rules, NFPA 54, and NFPA 58. Other materials and cell phones are not to be used during the examination.

The initial examination shall be waived for:

- *Those applicants that have successfully completed the requirements of the Certified Employee Training Program (CETP), as written by the National Propane Gas Association, and that corresponds to the work to be performed by the applicant.*
- *Those applicants that have successfully completed the requirements in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 49, Parts 172.700, 172.704, 177.800 and 177.816, that corresponds to the work to be performed by the applicant.*
- *Those applicants that have successfully completed the Rocky Mountain Gas Association, Natural Gas Technician Certification Exam*

(Story continues top of next page)

with a passing score, shall have the requirement for initial examination waived after appropriate documentation is provided to the Division by the applicant.

- *Those applicants who are licensed journeyman plumbers as required in the Construction Trades Licensing Act Plumber Licensing Rules, R156-55c, shall have the requirement for initial examination waived after appropriate documentation is provided to the Division by the applicant.*

Original LPG certificates shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance. Thereafter, each LPG certificate shall be renewed annually, and renewals shall be valid for one year from issuance.

If you have an RMGA Gas Technician certification or are a Licensed Plumber, the exam is waived—just follow the application



instructions on the Fire Marshalls website.

Some members suggested the RMGA sponsor an LP gas class to benefit the industry; I'll bring this up at the next Board meeting.

Thank you for being part of our association. Have a great holiday season.

Please reach out with your comments or questions. Thank you—Brent ■

Mark your calendar ~ February 2 Sweetheart Social Mammoth Hockey!

On Monday, Feb. 2nd, RMGA members will celebrate the Sweetheart Social watching the Mammoth hockey club clobber Canada's Canucks. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m. at the Delta Center. Attendees will be dropped off via Lyft/Uber or personal vehicle after a light dinner party at John Hill and RMGA's office (153 S 900 E, 84102) beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Meet D&S Piping's: DANIEL BRINKERHOFF

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

A. If I wasn't doing gas lines I would likely run an excavation company focusing on landscaping large areas. I find it rewarding to shape earth to create something beautiful from the earth.

Q. What was your most unusual work experience?

A. As a Marine I was able to see the interactions between the President of The United States and others. It helped me to really see who they were and not who they pretended to be.

Q. What are your favorite aspects of your job?

A. I would say the favorite part of my job is figuring out a complicated job that others may run from and providing a solution that everyone is happy with. I like pushing myself to accomplish things that stretch me and my employees.

Q. Do you have a motto to live by?

A. My motto: "Perfect is good enough."

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

A. If I could travel anywhere. . . That is hard to nail down. I would love to see the Great Barrier Reef before it ceases to exist, see the pyramids in Egypt, walk the great wall of China or spend a couple weeks in the Amazon. There are more amazing things to see but unfortunately time is short and I have to pay for those trips.

Q. What is your favorite hobby?

A. I really do just like to work but to nail it down to the true reason I like to work is that I like to create. I can't think of



DANIEL BRINKERHOFF & FAMILY

anything more gratifying than creating something from raw materials especially if I haven't done it before.

Q. Tell us about your hidden talent.

A. Inventiveness. I have a bit of a knack figuring things out that don't have a one size fits all answer.

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

A. Other than pay off some debt, buy some land with a home in a warm climate for my wife I would absolutely start a non-profit caring for my fellow veterans that suffer from PTSD. I have spent decades thinking about, studying treatments and talking to veterans with PTSD. Historically the veterans are forgotten by the government. I want to help in any way I can.

Q. Do you have a favorite movie?

A. Pitch Black.

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

A. Jesus Christ, Adam (The first man) and my Grandma. Jesus Christ is a creator and Savior to us all. I cannot imagine how I could run out of questions. Adam the right hand of Christ who had to start from scratch on everything. His imagination and intuition has to be off the charts. My Grandma. . . She wasn't perfect but she was close enough, to me.

Q. People would be surprised to know. . .

A. I asked my wife of almost 25 years to marry me after only three dates. I also raised her three kids as my own along with the three kids we had together. Of those six children, three work for me currently. ■

Daniel Brinkerhoff is owner of D & S Piping. He can be reached at 801-647-2544.

Can you trust ChatGPT?

BY ED JANOWIAK, MANAGER OF DESIGN EDUCATION, ACCA

I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS about ChatGPT — so I asked it directly. ChatGPT said: That's a fair and important question. The honest answer is you can trust ChatGPT for many things, but not everything. Here's a breakdown:

What you can trust ChatGPT for:

- Explaining concepts (technical, scientific, historical, etc.)
- Brainstorming and creative writing
- Drafting emails, reports, articles, or outlines
- Summarizing and simplifying content
- Programming help and code review
- Grammar, style, and writing feedback
- Fact checking common knowledge (e.g., Newton's laws, basic HVACR design principles)

What to be cautious about:

Up to the minute news or legal developments

Unless explicitly stated, ChatGPT's information may not be current. Use external sources for anything time sensitive (e.g., current litigation, stock prices, new laws).

Medical, legal or financial advice

ChatGPT can explain concepts, but it's no substitute for a licensed expert who understands your specific situation

Citations or Quotes

It can generate realistic-looking citations—but always verify them. If a reference matters, double-check it.

Complex Technical Calculations or

Rare Industry Specific knowledge

ChatGPT can assist, but its output should be validated, especially in professional or regulated environments.

How to use it wisely:

- Treat ChatGPT as a smart assistant, not a final authority.
- Cross-check anything that affects your business, health, legal standing or reputation.
- Ask for sources or request a double-check and follow up on your own if needed.
- If you're unsure, ask how it got to an answer. That alone can be revealing.

I found its response refreshingly honest, and I believe ChatGPT tends to follow my lead well, especially when I'm specific and it's quite helpful with HVACR design principle. But at the same time, **I've seen too many answers that conflict with ACCA manuals or, at the very least, don't align with them.**

You need to scrutinize its content particularly on the very topics it admits require detailed evaluation.

I've seen AI used far too often just to generate content that fills a page without much concern for accuracy. I think that is referred to as "word salad." That's a dangerous approach, especially in a technical field like HVACR.

If you've ever browsed HVACR-related social media pages, you know how scary it can get. The loudest voices or the most offensive often drown out the people with a solid foundation in



how these systems really work. That noise becomes part of the online record, and AI tools learn from that content.

When the internet treats repetition as truth, misinformation spreads and AI can unknowingly carry that torch.

That said, I absolutely use ChatGPT for many of the things it says it does well. Full disclosure: Most of what I write is done via voice-to-text. ChatGPT has been a game changer in helping me tighten up what I want to say.

Bottom line:

I'm not going to tell you not to use it. I use it at times. But I going to tell you to use it carefully. Review what it gives you. Cross-check the important stuff. If someone's going to read what you're sharing, especially in a professional setting, make sure it reflects your expertise, not just an AI's guess.

ChatGPT is a powerful assistant. But it's no substitute for the hard work, experience, knowledge and understanding associated with a true subject matter expert.

I trust ChatGPT more now than I did before, as it realizes its own limitations. I'm not 100% sure if it's aligning with my doubts in the past, or if the cyborgs are going to come down and destroy the earth in the next few months, only time will tell. ■

Article sourced from ACCA Now Magazine



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