

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING•HEATING•COOLING•CONTRACTORS

Volume 101, No. 9

September 2015

What's **WRONG**



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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Erik Graybeal
Illinois PHCC President

Hello from Central Illinois.

Where did the summer go? September is here and it will be gone before you know it. Fall is my favorite time of the year. Cooler temperatures and football!

Well, another month has passed with no state budget approved. I have been told that this could go on for a few more months, but hopefully not. As I said last month, we will not only have increased expenses remobilizing, but also checking that all of the work previously done is not damaged and still in the condition it was left in. I know we have some underground rough-ins with no concrete poured over it and wall rough-ins left with minimal weather protection of a roof and walls. We will definitely be checking & retesting all of our piping.

I would like to re-visit an article in the August issue of the Illinois Master Plumber. If you didn't get a chance to read the article by Mark Breslin last month, please do so. If you don't have that issue handy, you can read it online at www.ilphcc.com under the Illinois Master Plumber tab. I have not had the opportunity to see Mark speak, but I am fortunate enough to be invited to sit in on a lecture from him in October. This article on leadership lessons is something every business owner, superintendent, foreman and even the workers out in the field should read. We always need to be conscientious of how we are leading our employees. If we are not good leaders, how can we expect them to be the good employees we expect them to be? It all starts at

the top, and like the article states, there are a lot of pains along the way.

On August 22nd a meeting of the Illinois PHCC Board of Directors was held in O'Fallon, Illinois. The attendance was low and it was discussed about possibly cancelling the August meeting in the future. I'm guessing with it being the end of summer and school starting back up, everyone just has busy schedules. The next board meeting is November 14th in Normal. Please make every effort to attend. We can really use everyone's ideas and opinions on the Plumbing and HVAC industry issues that we encounter everyday.

I would like to give one final reminder for Connect 2015 in Hollywood, Florida on September 30-October 2. I hope to see you there. Please stop me and introduce yourself.

I hope you have a profitable month and remember to tell your employees they are doing a good job!

Have a great ending to your summer.


**Until
next month...**

**Erik
Graybeal**



HELP WANTED

Northwest side of Chicago residential plumbing service company is looking to hire **service professionals**. Prior service experience is a must. Exceptional pay, benefits, and bonuses. Please email resume to jbaethke@baethkeplumbing.com.

The Village of Savoy, Illinois is taking applications for the position of the village **plumbing inspector**. Due to the upcoming retirement of the current plumbing inspector, this position will be filled as soon as possible to allow for training of the new inspector. For more details contact Dan Davies 217-202-5714. 

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

The following information was inadvertently omitted from the Illinois PHCC Directory. Please add the following information to your Directory. We apologize for the omission.

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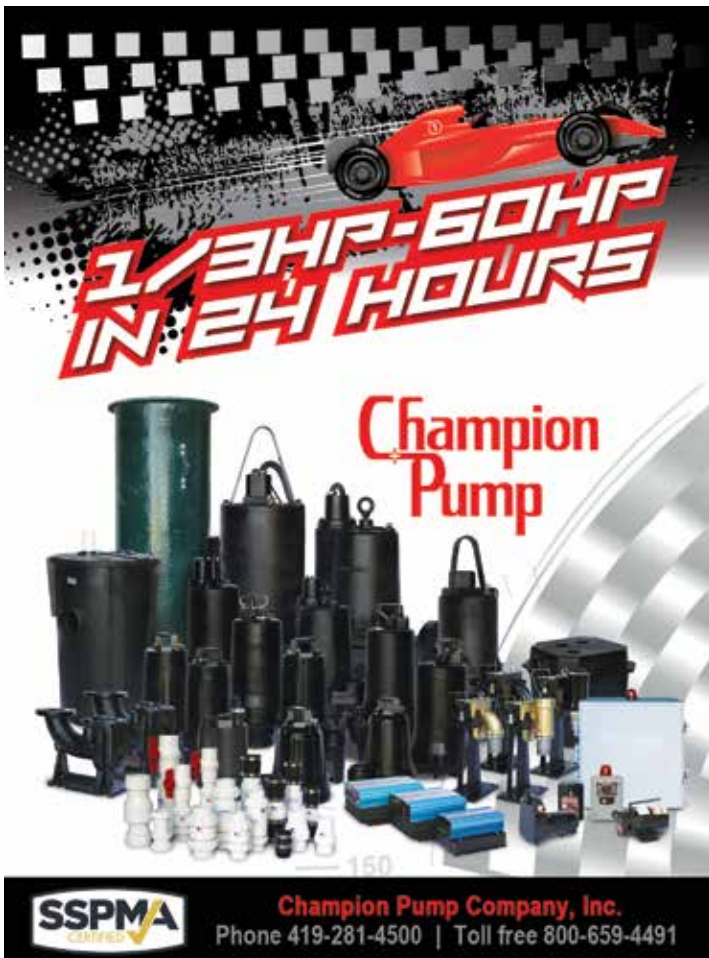
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CONFINED SPACES RULE IN EFFECT OCTOBER 3

Prepare now to make sure you're in compliance with OSHA's full enforcement on October 3 of its new Confined Spaces in Construction standard. Originally scheduled to be enforced on August 3, OSHA delayed the standard in response to requests for additional time to train workers. The rule is intended to protect construction workers laboring in confined spaces (e.g., sewers, pits, crawl spaces, attics and boilers) against hazards that include exposure to toxic substances, electrocutions, explosions, and asphyxiation. Visit www.osha.gov/confinedspaces/faq.html to check out these frequently asked questions for more information. 



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Illinois PHCC CEU Class
John A. Logan College
Carterville, IL

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Illinois PHCC CEU Class
Kaskaskia College
Vandalia, IL

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 2, 2015

PHCC National Convention
Hollywood, FL

OCTOBER 16, 2015

Illinois PHCC CEU Class
Hilton Garden Inn
Springfield, IL

NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Illinois PHCC CEU Class
Rend Lake Resort
Whittington, IL

NOVEMBER 12, 2015

ERTC Backflow Symposium
Doubletree Hotel
Bloomington, IL

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

Illinois PHCC & Auxiliary Board Meetings
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Normal, IL

MARCH 17, 2016

Illinois PHCC Annual Meeting
Hilton Suites Hotel
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

MARCH 18, 2016

Illinois PHCC Expo & Educational Day
Drury Lane Conference Center
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

MARCH 19, 2016

Illinois PHCC & Auxiliary Board Meetings
Hilton Suites Hotel
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 

ILLINOIS CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES EXPOSED WORKERS TO ASBESTOS HAZARDS

Employees removing floor tiles, insulation and other materials from a former elementary school were exposed to deadly asbestos fibers even though their employers knew of the dangers. OSHA found that Joseph Kehrer, Kehrer Brothers Construction and a Kehrer-affiliated company, D7 Roofing, which employed some of the workers, violated numerous OSHA health standards related to the dangers of asbestos. Many of the workers came to the U.S. to work for Kehrer under the provisions of the H-2B visa program.

“Kehrer Brothers Construction brought non-English speaking workers to the U.S. and knowingly exposed

them to asbestos,” said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. “This is outrageous, illegal behavior.”

OSHA issued Kehrer Brothers and Joseph Kehrer \$1,792,000 in penalties for willfully exposing at least eight workers to asbestos and placed the company in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program. OSHA also cited D7 Roofing \$147,000 for not training the workers or informing them about the presence of asbestos-containing material and for failing to conduct inspections as required by law. For more information, visit www.osha.gov/newsrelease/reg5-20150811.html.



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WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Was there a violation of the Illinois Plumbing Code on last month's cover photo? **Section 890.1140 e)1)** states "All threaded valve outlets shall have backflow protection in accordance with Section 890.1130". While this may seem pretty obvious to a licensed plumber that this is a violation, we want to share the story of this situation.

A carnival had just moved into a small town for their annual festival. Various food/drink vendors and other attractions needed water to their trailers. A PHCC contractor member happened to be in the area and noticed this hydrant, and that the outlets had no protection. Recognizing the potential hazard to festival attendees and the community, the contractor contacted the IDPH plumbing inspector for that region. The inspector visited the site and had the situation rectified. Who knows what the hoses that were going to be connected to those outlets had been used for previously, and what type of equipment was going to be connected now?

Kudos to the contractor for not only noticing the potential hazard, but for taking the time to do something about it. In today's world it is so easy to just walk by and not get involved. We need to continually remember that our job is to "protect the health of the nation".

The winner of the August cover contest was Ray Bauer, Building/Plumbing Inspector in Elk Grove Village. Ray will receive an Illinois PHCC logo item for his entry. Is there a violation on this month's cover? Let us know your thoughts by emailing the Illinois PHCC at bev@ilphcc.com or faxing 217-522-4315.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Following are bills from the Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly that have been signed into law by Governor Rauner.

SB 679 (H. Steans) Amends the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act to provide that mercury ampoules are included in collection programs. Also requires that no person shall demolish a commercial building unless all mercury thermostats have been removed from the building and taken to a collection site. Signed by the Governor on July 23rd to become Public Act 99-0122.

HB 2635 (R. Sandack & E. Nekritz) Amends the Mechanics Lien Act to provide that an applicant may file a petition to substitute a bond for the property subject to a lien claim under the Act. Amended with changes that include the following: (1) makes changes to the definition of the term “eligible surety bond” and provides that an “eligible surety bond” shall be in an amount equal to 175% (instead of 150%) of the amount of the lien claim; (2) makes a change to the definition of the term “lien claim”; (3) adds a definition of the term “prevailing party”; (4) removes language permitting an applicant to file a petition to substitute a bond for property subject to a lien claim at any time prior to 5 months after the filing of a complaint or counterclaim by a mechanic lien claimant, and instead provides that an applicant may file a petition to substitute a bond for property subject to a lien claim; (5) adds provisions concerning the time within which a person may apply to become a party to a pending action to enforce a lien claim; (6) removes a provision concerning notice by certified mail; (7) removes a provision setting forth circumstances under which a principal or lien claimant under a surety bond may petition the court to have the

current owner or other party having an interest in the real estate who is not a principal or surety of the eligible surety bond dismissed from a pending proceeding to enforce a lien claim; (8) removes a provision concerning attorney fees covered by the surety bond; (9) adds provisions limiting attorney’s fees. Signed by the Governor on July 29th to become PA 99-0178. Effective date of January 1, 2016.

HB 3497 (B. Currie & C. Sente) Amends the Illinois Procurement Code to provide that the CDB may (currently, shall) draw specifications to permit independent bidding by prime bidders in each of the 5 subdivisions of work. Provides that the CDB may draw specifications for a single prime bidder; and that a successful single prime bidder shall identify the name of the subcontractor and proposal costs for each of the 5 subdivisions of work, and that no identified subcontractor may be terminated without the written consent of the CDB. Amended to state that projects \$5 million and under will be multiple prime with the possibility that half of those projects could be single prime. Passed the House and Senate. Signed by the Governor on August 4th to become Public Act 99-0257.

SB 1487 (B. Cunningham) Creates a pilot program in counties with a population over 3,000,000 (Cook County) that permits documents to be recorded against a property in foreclosure by judicial order only. This was amended to exempt mechanics liens. Signed by the Governor on August 21st to become PA 99-0439.

Contact the Illinois PHCC office with questions/comments on any legislation or regulatory activity.



STUPID PLUMBING TRICKS



From time to time we like to share with you some of the photos we receive in the Illinois PHCC office. It is amazing what homeowners and unlicensed people come up with.





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CHLORINE SAFETY

Another important ToolBox Talk brought to you by the Quality Service Contractors (QSC) – An Enhanced Service Group of PHCC, P.O. Box 6808, Falls Church, VA 22040.

Ph. 800-533-7694. Visit our website at:
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Chlorine Safety

Exposure to concentrated amounts of chlorine can be toxic and cause irritation to the skin, eyes, nose and mucous membranes. Chlorine need not be a serious hazard if the people working with it are properly trained in its handling. The following are some guidelines for assuring the safe handling of chlorine.

1. Provide proper instruction and supervision to workers responsible for chlorine equipment.
2. Provide proper and approved self-contained breathing apparatus in areas where chlorine is stored or used.
3. Keep all breathing apparatus stored outside the chlorine area.
4. Prepare escape plans from areas where there might be a chlorine emission. Remember to move uphill and upwind.
5. Never store combustible or flammable materials near chlorine containers.
6. Never apply heat directly to a chlorine container.
7. Never attempt to weld an “empty” chlorine pipe line without purging it with air first.
8. Install safety showers and eye wash stations near chlorine equipment.
9. If there is a leak, at least two persons should make the repairs.
10. Never spray water on leaking containers; it can make the leak worse.
11. When entering an equipment area, take shallow

breaths until you are sure that there is not a chlorine gas leak.

12. Rely upon chlorination equipment for direct disposal of chlorine gas.
13. Secure chlorine containers with chains, chocks, or trunnions.

Safety Rules for Chlorine Cylinders and Containers 100 and 150 Pound Cylinders

1. Never expose a cylinder to heat.
2. Never tamper with a fusible plug.
3. Always keep the hood in place, except when the cylinder is being used.
4. Never lift a cylinder by its hood.
5. Do not connect two or more cylinders discharging liquid valves of two or more containers to a common manifold.
6. Never drop or knock over a cylinder
7. Do not move filled containers with equipment rated under two-ton capacity.

Ton Containers

1. Never expose a container to excessive heat.
2. Never tamper with a fusible plug.
3. Do not move filled ton containers with equipment rated under two-ton capacity.
4. Do not connect liquid valves of two or more containers to a common manifold.
5. Store containers in separately marked areas

protected from heat sources.

- Do not use or store containers near air intakes or basements where fumes could spread to other areas.

Chlorine Data Sheet Description

Chlorine gas is greenish-yellow, non-flammable, and about 2.5 times heavier than air.

Hazards

Chlorine can be toxic and cause irritation to skin, eyes, nose, and mucous membranes. Liquid chlorine can cause severe irritation and blistering of skin.

Health Precautions

Use chlorine only in well ventilated areas. Eyewashes, showers, and oxygen should be available. Self-contained breathing apparatus or canister type respirators should also be accessible.

Personal Protective Clothing

When using chlorine, personal protective clothing should include:

- full face shield or non-ventilated chemical goggles;
- chemically resistant rubber gloves;
- apron or jacket; and
- long sleeves and trousers.
- open shoes and sneakers should be prohibited when handling chlorine.

Health Effect

Low concentrations: burning in the eyes, nose, and throat, redness in the face, sneezing and coughing.

High concentrations: tightness in throat and chest-pulmonary edema. 1000 Parts Per Million (PPM) is rapidly fatal.

First Aid Inhalation

- Remove victim from contaminated area.
- Keep victim warm in a reclined position with head and shoulders elevated.
- Give artificial respiration, if necessary.
- Give oxygen as soon as possible.
- Call emergency personnel or a physician immediately.

Skin Contact

- Shower victim, removing all contaminated clothing.
- Was affected area with soap and water.

Eye Contact

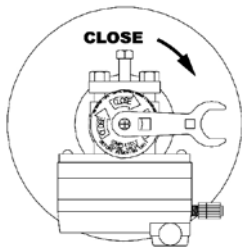
- Irrigate eyes with water for 15 minutes, holding eye lids wide apart.
- Call emergency personnel or a physician immediately.
- Irrigate for second 15-minute period if emergency personnel or physician is not immediately available.

Instructions to hang near Chlorinator, Sulfonator or Ammoniator Cylinders

- Turn valve stem clockwise to close cylinder valve.
- Allow float in flow meter to drop to zero. Indicator on front of gas feeder should indicate no gas.

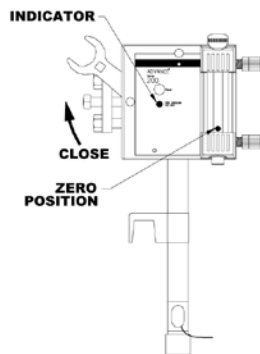
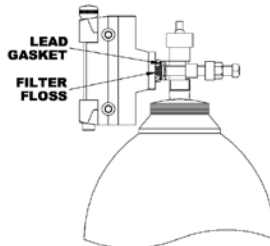
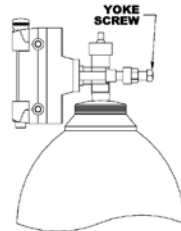
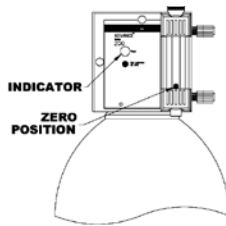
- Wait approximately one minute, float should remain at zero. If float flutters or does not drop to zero, valve may not be closed tightly. Make certain valve is closed before proceeding.

- Turn off ejector and make certain the gas supply indicator stays in the “No Gas” position by turning the “Reset” knob.



If the indicator resets, either gas pressure is still present or there is an air leak in the system. Refer to the instruction manual if an air leak is evident.

- Loosen gas feeder yoke screw. Remove gas feeder from valve.
- Replace gas cylinder
- Remove old lead gasket. Inspect and clean mating surfaces of gas feeder and valve. Install new unused lead gasket.
- Position gas feeder on new gas cylinder and tighten yoke screw. Do not tighten excessively.
- Crack open gas cylinder valve and re-close quickly. Check for leaks. If leaks exist turn on ejector and repeat steps number (2), (3), and (4) and correct leaks.
- Leak test solutions: Chlorinator/ Sulfonator- Ammonia, Ammoniator- Bleach.
- Open gas cylinder valve approximately ¼ turn only and leave cylinder wrench valve.
- Turn on ejector.



Instructions To Hang Near Changing Ton Containers

- Turn valve stem clockwise to close ton contain valve.
- Wait approximately one minute. Float should remain at zero. If float flutter or does not drop to zero, valve may not be closed tightly. Make certain valve is closed before proceeding.
- Turn off ejector and make certain the gas supply indicator stays in the “No Gas” position by turning the “Reset” knob. If the indicator resets, either gas pressure is still present or there is an air leak in the system. Refer to the instruction manual if an air leak is evident.
- Loosen gas feeder yoke screw. Remove gas feeder from valve.
- Replace ton container, make sure the full container is oriented with the valves in the vertical position, one valve above the other.
- Remove old lead gasket. Inspect and clean mating surfaces of gas feeder and valve. Install new unused lead gasket.
- Position gas feeder on new gas cylinder and tighten yoke screw. Do not tight3en excessively.
- Be sure heater is plugged in and operating.
- Allow float in flow meter to drop to zero. Indicator on front of gas feeder should show red indicating no gas. All liquid must be vaporized from the trap.



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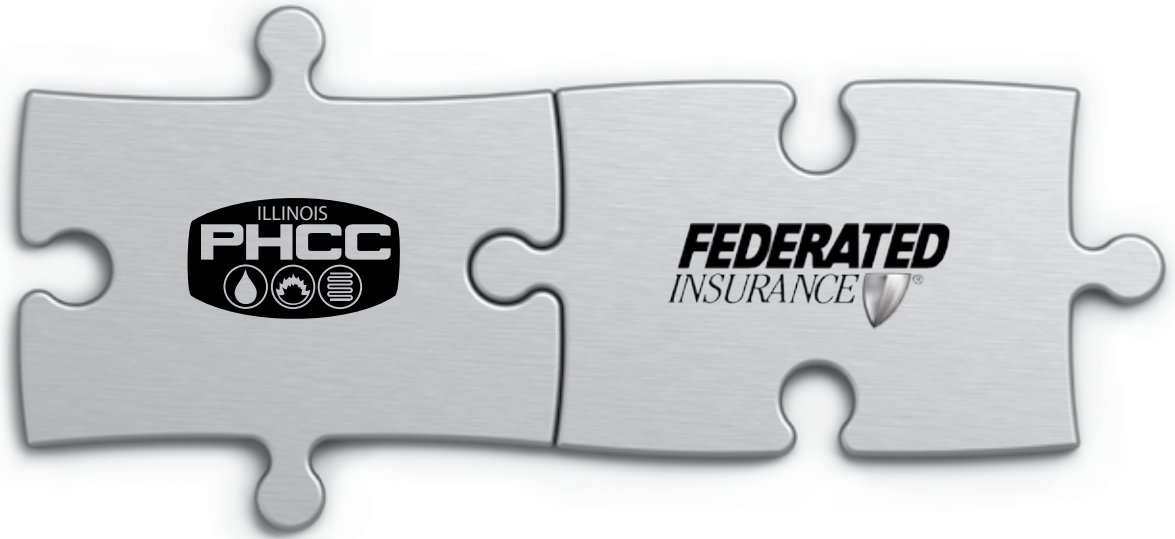
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HR QUESTION ? of the month



FMLA – Does depression qualify?

Question: An employee has requested a leave due to depression. I advised her to seek medical advice and provided her with FMLA. Is depression usually considered a valid reason to be off work under the FMLA guidelines?

Response: It can be. The U.S. Department of Labor's Compliance Guide summarizes the definition of a serious health condition for FMLA purposes as follows:

"Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

- any period of incapacity or treatment connected with inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
- a period of incapacity requiring an absence of more than three calendar days from work, school, or other regular daily activities that also involves continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a health care provider; or
- any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care; or
- any period of incapacity (or treatment therefore) due to a chronic serious health condition (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.); or
- a period of incapacity that is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective (e.g., Alzheimer's, stroke, terminal diseases, etc.); or,
- any absences to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by, or on referral by, a health care provider for a condition that likely would result in an incapacity of more than three consecutive days if left untreated (e.g., chemotherapy, physical therapy, dialysis, etc.)." See <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/1421.htm>.

Thus, depression may be a serious health condition under the FMLA if it meets one or more of the criteria listed above. We also wish to point out that whether or not depression qualifies as a serious health condition under the FMLA, it may qualify as a disability under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which may entitle the employee to time off as a reasonable accommodation. This is addressed specifically by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in its guidance on psychiatric conditions and the ADA which is available at <http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/psych.html> and which we encourage you to review.

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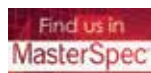


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Questions? Contact the Illinois PHCC at bev@ilphcc.com or shelly@ilphcc.com

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2015-2016 Continuing Education for Illinois Licensed Plumbers

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> **September 18, 2015 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **September 19, 2015 – 8:00 am-12:00 pm	Kaskaskia College, Vandalia, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **October 16, 2015 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **November 6, 2015 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Rend Lake Resort, Whittington, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **January 8, 2016 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **February 19, 2016 – 1:00 pm-5:00pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **March 18, 2016 - 9:00 am -1:00pm	Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	\$35.00

No Walkins – No Exceptions. All Registrations for the March 18 class must be received before March 1, 2016

<input type="checkbox"/> **April 8, 2016 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Rend Lake Resort, Whittington, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **April 22, 2016 - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$75.00

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Cancellation Policy: IL PHCC reserves the right to cancel a course due to insufficient enrollment. If we cancel a course, you will be notified and your pre-registration will be refunded to you or you may transfer to another location. There is no refund for any registration not cancelled (10) working days prior to the class. There will be a \$50.00 service charge for any checks returned due to insufficient funds.

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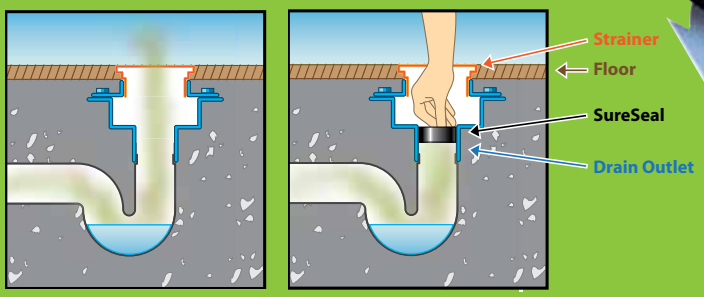
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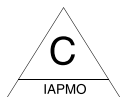
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