

# ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING•HEATING•COOLING•CONTRACTORS

Volume 105, No. 9

September 2019

## Illinois PHCC Expo South

Trade Show & Continuing Education



Friday, November 1, 2019 ~ 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Gateway Center ~ Collinsville, Illinois

### FREE ADMISSION to the Expo

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- New Technologies
- Talk to Manufacturers
- Get Code Information
- CEU Class for ALL  
Licensed Plumbers &  
Certified Inspectors

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Editorial and personalized news stories reflect the opinions of the writers, and not necessarily that of the Association. Neither the Association nor this magazine accepts responsibility for statements or claims made by advertisers for their products or services.

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# PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Mike Ehret  
Illinois PHCC President

As summer is ending with the passing of Labor Day, we diehard baseball fans, (especially in the southern part of the state) finally have something to root for after 3 very long years (sorry all you Cubs & Sox fans!)

On a more serious note, I am hoping that Illinois will have a great showing at the PHCC National Convention, "Connect '19" coming up in Indianapolis the first week of October. If you have never been before it is a great opportunity for learning, networking, and seeing new products. Indianapolis is close enough that anyone can easily drive there. Register now at [www.phccweb.org](http://www.phccweb.org).

And then on November 1, we have the Illinois PHCC Expo South & Continuing Education Class held in Collinsville, IL. The CEU class qualifies for State hours for inspectors, as well as for plumbers. There will be 4 different speakers during the class providing information you need to know. As we try to grow this into a show similar to the Illinois PHCC Expo in Oakbrook Terrace, I encourage everyone that can make the Expo South to show up to make the exhibitors time and work pay off.

Until next time,

Mike



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2019

CCA of PHCC Fall Meeting  
Denver, CO

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

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

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Illinois PHCC CEU Class  
Holiday Inn Express  
Vandalia, IL

OCTOBER 2-4, 2019

PHCC Connect '19  
Indianapolis, IN

NOVEMBER 1, 2019

Illinois PHCC Expo South & CEU  
Gateway Center  
Collinsville, IL

NOVEMBER 2, 2019

Illinois PHCC & Auxiliary Board Meetings  
Doubletree Hotel  
Collinsville, IL

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Backflow Symposium  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Bloomington, IL

MARCH 18-20, 2020

UAC of PHCC Management Conference  
Drury Lane Conference Center  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

MARCH 20, 2020

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

MARCH 21, 2020

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



## PLUMBING CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL TIME

All plumbing contractors registered with the Illinois Department of Public Health should have received a renewal post card. Even though you are renewing online, you must still fax or email the insurance and bonds.

**Only send those documents by ONE of these methods.** Do **NOT** email and then follow up with a fax. This only causes confusion and delays the process. IDPH highly **recommends emailing**, rather than faxing.

Please make sure you look at all the materials carefully and submit your renewal as soon as possible - **DON'T DELAY**. Questions on renewals may be directed to the IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Program at 217-524-0791 or to [dph.plumbing@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.plumbing@illinois.gov).



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# *Illinois PHCC Expo South*

*Friday, November 1, 2019*

*Gateway Center  
One Gateway Drive  
Collinsville, IL 62234*

*9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. – Continuing Education Class*

*Noon – 4 P.M. EXPO Trade Show*

Friday, November 1st, will provide you with a great opportunity to view new products, talk to manufacturers, learn new technologies, network with other plumbers and contractors, and also have some fun. If you have not yet gotten your required **4 hours of continuing education credit for your 2020 license renewal**, now is the time. Multiple speakers will be presenting on a variety of industry topics. All of the day's activities are free of charge, with the exception of a \$35.00 fee for the 4 hour CEU class. **You must bring your most recent plumbing license with you to the class. Pre-registration is required for the CEU class.**

The **highlight of the day** will be the **Illinois PHCC trade show from 12:00-4:00 P.M.** Come see the **latest products, tools, trucks and technologies.** Admittance to the **2019 Expo South is free of charge.** Food will be available and prize drawings will be held throughout the show.

Illinois PHCC  
821 South Grand Ave. West  
Springfield, IL 62704



*Questions ??? Call (217) 522-7219*  
**www.ilphcc.com**



***Illinois PHCC Educational Day  
November 1, 2019  
Gateway Center - One Gateway Drive  
Collinsville, IL 62234***

***7:00 AM to 9:00 AM – CEU Class for Certified Plumbing Inspectors Only***

☐ Check here if you **ARE** a **Certified Plumbing Inspector** and will be attending the **FULL Class**.  
(The full class will count as 6 State approved hours.)

☐ Check here ***9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – CEU Class for All Plumbers***

**You MUST bring your Plumbers License with you to the class. Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start time to complete registration.**

**All registrations MUST be received before October 18, 2019.**

**NO WALK-INS will be accepted for the CEU class.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration form with complete address and \$35.00 fee to:**

**Illinois PHCC**

**821 South Grand Ave. West**

**Springfield, IL 62704**

**Make checks payable to the Illinois PHCC**

**or register online at**

**[www.ilphcc.com](http://www.ilphcc.com)**

**Registrations will not be processed unless accompanied by the fee.**

**Cancellations will be charged a cancellation fee of \$15.00.**



**Questions ??? Call (217) 522-7219**

**Remember the Expo runs from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M. and is FREE!**







**2019 EXPO South**  
**Gateway Center ♦ One Gateway Drive ♦ Collinsville, Illinois 62234**  
**Application & Contract**  
**November 1, 2019**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Company Name as it is to appear on Printed Material

Booth Preference: Indicate Booth Preference as Shown on Floor Plan.

# of 8'x10' Booth spaces \_\_\_\_\_ Choices 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**All distribution of materials and placement of signs MUST stay within your assigned booth space. No solicitation will be allowed outside of your booth space. No trucks, trailers or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of Gateway Center without the permission of the Illinois PHCC.**

**Booth Costs:** One to three booths - \$500 each. Four or more booths - \$450 each.

**\$150 deposit per booth must accompany application form. 10% discount if full amount of booth cost is paid prior to August 15, 2019. BALANCE MUST BE PAID NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2019.**

**Make check payable to: Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Ave. West, Springfield, IL 62704**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The following products or services will be displayed: \_\_\_\_\_

Space assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please furnish all information requested. Cancellation must be by mutual consent of the applicant and the Illinois PHCC. A copy of the accepted contract will be mailed to you. If the contract is canceled prior to September 15, 2019 a full refund will be made. No refunds after September 16, 2019. Booth space contracted without deposit will be made available as space is needed. Illinois PHCC will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods or damage to the Gateway Center. ***In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Illinois PHCC Association will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at its meetings. Please call 800-795-7422 with any special requests.***

Booth Assignment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois PHCC Executive Director/Show Manager



## Illinois PHCC Exhibitor Terms and Conditions

**Management:** This event is sponsored by the Illinois Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors Association (IL PHCC), herein designated as the "Management". Management has the sole authority to accept or reject an application to exhibit in any Illinois PHCC Expo and to determine which exhibitors are the best fit for attendees. An Exhibitor is an applicant for booth space that has been accepted for participation in the trade show by Management.

**Booth Assignment:** Management reserves the right to make all final decisions for booth assignment, layout, and configuration. Every effort will be made to assign the exhibitor's requested booth choices. Participation is at the sole discretion of Management and reserves the right to cancel any exhibitor.

**Display Restrictions:** All products, services, or literature displayed must fit within the allotted 8' x 10' booth space. Exhibits may not project beyond the space allotted or interfere with traffic, other exhibits, including line of sight. Exhibits may not extend into any aisle. Management reserves the right without recourse to prohibit any portion of any exhibit, which in its opinion is not suitable, or in keeping with the character of the event. This reservation of rights by Management applies to persons, things, conduct, printed matter, catalogs, and any other material relating to or affecting the event. No signs, banners, or flyers may be displayed or distributed outside of assigned booth space. The use of any public area outside of assigned booth space for the display of signage, solicitation, products, services, demonstrations, distribution of circulars, or other material is prohibited. Anyone not assigned a booth space will not be permitted to solicit business or distribute information/samples on the show floor or anywhere inside or outside the tradeshow facility. No trucks, trailers, or displays will be allowed outside the entrance of or in the parking area of the Gateway Center without permission of the Management.

**Food and Beverage:** Absolutely no alcohol is to be given out or sold in any booth. Alcohol must be purchased from the bars provided and staffed by the trade show facility. Food and beverages must be purchased from the facility and only with prior approval of Management. Snack size or smaller candy or snacks may be given out. There is to be no use of popcorn machines, chocolate fountains, microwaves, etc. without written approval by the Management and the facility.

**Liability and Insurance:** Neither the Management nor the Gateway Center will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged goods, or damage to the Gateway Center. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain such insurance. Exhibitors are liable for the cost of repairing any damage to the facility caused by the exhibitor, its employees, representatives, or agents.

**No Conflicts:** There shall be no activities planned in conflict with this event.

**Force Majeure:** If the event venue or any part of the exhibit area is unavailable whether for the entire event, or a portion of the event as a result of wind, fire, flood, natural disaster or any other such cause or as a result of governmental intervention, malicious damage, acts of war, terrorism, strike, lockout, riot or other cause or agency over which Management has no control, or should Management decide that because of any such cause it is necessary to cancel, postpone, or re-site the event or reduce the exhibit time, Management shall not be liable to indemnify or reimburse the Exhibitor in respect of any damage, loss, direct or indirect, arising as a result thereof.

I agree to the above terms and conditions as well as those included on the contract.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Company Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_



**BRIAN COX**

# **SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

## **IDPH PLUMBING & WATER QUALITY MANAGER**

### **BRIAN COX**

To protect public health, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) regulates plumbers and the plumbing trade by maintaining a minimum code of standards for plumbing practices. The IDPH licenses approximately 8,900 plumbers and 2,000 apprentice plumbers on an annual basis. The person responsible for all of this license regulation and so much more is Brian Cox. In this issue, the PCA Midwest/Plumbing Council interviewed Cox in an effort to promote greater communication between the IDPH and our Association, and to introduce him to our nearly 300 Plumbing Council affiliated contractors.

#### **When did you assume the role of IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Manager and what are your main responsibilities?**

I began my role as Plumbing and Water Quality Program Manager in July, 2017. My program staff includes fourteen Plumbing Inspectors, a Plumbing Consultant, two Water Quality Specialists, and four Administrative Staff. In addition to typical managerial duties, some of my other primary responsibilities include enforcing the requirements of the Plumbing License Law and all of the associated Administrative Codes (Illinois Plumbing Code, Plumbers Licensing Code, Plumbing Contractor Registration Code, and the Lawn Irrigation and Lawn Sprinkler System Registration Code); working with the Plumbing Code Advisory Council, Illinois State Board of Plumbing Examiners, and other stakeholders to ensure each of these administrative codes are updated to address emergent public health concerns and reflect current industry standards; working with both IDPH and local plumbing inspectors to enforce the Law and Codes; and working with a team of colleagues to conduct water quality assessments when clusters of illness have been identified and may be linked to waterborne pathogens, or the building's plumbing system.

#### **What did you do prior to this job?**

Prior to coming to IDPH, I worked for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as an Environmental Protection Engineer for approximately eleven years, primarily reviewing wastewater treatment plant and sewer system designs, as well as reviewing wastewater

characteristics to determine compliance with Federal and State effluent and water quality standards.

#### **What is the status of the Illinois Plumbing Code Ordinance Approvals?**

At this time, IDPH intends to offer a temporary extension until December 28, 2019 to municipalities whose ordinance will be expiring or has expired after December 28, 2018. All questions regarding the ordinance approval process should be submitted to **DPH.Plumbing@illinois.gov**.

#### **What is the status of the changes to the Illinois Plumbing Code that were addressed publicly in February of 2019?**

IDPH has evaluated comments received during the First Notice period for the proposed Illinois Plumbing Code amendments published in the Illinois Register on December 28, 2018, and has made changes to the proposed rule. The proposed changes will be submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) in the coming weeks for Second Notice. After Second Notice begins, comments should be submitted directly to JCAR via letter, fax, phone or e-mail.

#### **What are the top plumbing issues/concerns for the IDPH this year?**

The two top priorities for the Plumbing and Water Quality Program will continue to be reducing exposures to lead in water and minimizing the spread of opportunistic pathogens on premise plumbing. There were more than 500 cases of Legionnaires' disease in Illinois in 2018 and we are seeing similar numbers in 2019. The increasing number of Legionnaires' cases, morbidity rate associated with these infections, and the opportunity for the growth and spread within plumbing systems will continue to keep systematic controls for Legionella as a primary focus for the Program. Additional priorities for this year include furthering IDPH efforts to reduce exposures to lead in water, addressing public concerns regarding scald protections, and educating the plumbing industry on revisions to the Plumbing Code after adoption.

## What are some of the future issues you would like to see the IDPH tackle/strengthen?

My primary long-term goal is to develop strategies to increase the number of local plumbing inspectors and to develop a mechanism which simplifies the process for local inspectors' enforcement of the Plumbing License Law. The intended effect of this will be to reduce the wait time for inspections, reduce the number of unlicensed individuals and unregistered contractors performing plumbing, and increase compliance with requirements of the Plumbing License Law and Codes, which ultimately all serve to protect public health. In regard to future updates to the Plumbing Code, we intend to address system sizing requirements and have established several Plumbing Code Advisory Council subcommittees to tackle other concerns regarding minimum fixture requirements, backflow protection, and waste interceptor/separator requirements. Additional programmatic goals include clarifying procedures for various IDPH approvals required by the Code and Law, improving Program communication with the industry, strengthening apprenticeship/sponsorship oversight and requirements, and continuing to improve upon Plumbing Exam procedures.

## How can our plumbing contractors reach you and the IDPH with questions or concerns?

The best way to reach me or other IDPH program staff is by submitting an email to [DPH.Plumbing@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.Plumbing@illinois.gov) or calling (217) 524-0791.

## Is there anything that you would like to expand on as IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Manager?

Several other items that I feel are appropriate to reiterate include the following:


- Having a strong and knowledgeable plumbing industry is necessary to protect both public health and the value of the Plumber's license. If we don't have enough qualified licensed individuals to meet the demand of the public, we open a door for unqualified individuals to fill that space. It's with this in mind that the Program strongly encourages its licensees to promote plumbing to the youth of our community to show them that plumbing is a lucrative and rewarding career path. We must learn from the lessons of other

states to ensure our Program doesn't find itself in that same place.

- The Program would also like to remind everyone that all plumbing inspections should be memorialized by a plumbing inspection report. Pre-construction approval of design does not constitute compliance with the requirements for inspection.
- Finally, plumbing contractor renewals are anticipated to be sent out on or about August 15, 2019. Please make sure to submit your completed renewal and all required attachments prior to the September 30, 2019 expiration date to avoid late fees.

## IDPH Plumbing Program Statistics—as of August, 2019

- 8,126 licensed plumbers—117 newly licensed since Jan. 1, 2019.
- 2,837 licensed apprentice plumbers—503 brand new and 249 change of sponsor are newly licensed since Jan. 1, 2019.
- 156 registered sponsors of C.E. classes—152 are active.
- 336 registered certified plumbing inspectors—2 are newly licensed.
- 2,903 registered plumbing contractors—11 are new since July 1, 2019.
- 195 irrigation contractors—191 renewed since January 1, 2019.
- 905 registered irrigation employees.
- 15,458 licensed/registered individuals/businesses—13,511 renewed and 886 are newly licensed.
- 689 approved C.E. courses for approved sponsors.
- 498 Plumbing Test examinees in the last year (Sept. 2018 - present).
- Active Illinois plumbers and apprentice plumbers
  - <21 Years of age: 159
  - 21-30 Years of Age: 1,680
  - 31-40 Years of Age: 2,538
  - 41-50 Years of Age: 2,739

- 51-60 Years of Age:  
2,385
- >61 Years of Age:  
1,231
- Active Illinois plumbers  
and apprentice plumbers by  
gender
  - Male: 10,837
  - Female: 80 

**Thank you to Jeff Weiss, PCA Director of Communications & Public Affairs, and the PCA/ Plumbing Council for sharing this article from their “At Work” monthly publication.**


## CODE CHALLENGE

Each month we give you an opportunity to test your knowledge of the Illinois Plumbing License Law, Licensing Code, and Plumbing Code. Correctly answer the following questions and identify the correlating

section number for a chance to win a free Illinois PHCC CEU class registration. Email your answers to [bev@ilphcc.com](mailto:bev@ilphcc.com).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are exempt from Section 890. Table M.
2. Section \_\_\_\_\_, Table \_\_\_\_ is for Horizontal Fixture Branches & Stacks.
3. True or False: The Duplicate License Fee is \$100.00.
4. True or False: No licensed plumber may, in any capacity, supervise more than 2 licensed apprentice plumbers at the same time.
5. Under definitions in the Code, \_\_\_\_\_ is a device supplied with water under positive pressure that passes through an integral orifice, causing a partial vacuum and resulting in movement of fluid by siphonage.

### The answers for last month’s challenge were:

1. **True:** The water test shall be applied to the drainage system either in its entirety or in sections after the piping has been roughed-in. 890.1930b)
2. A registered plumbing contractor shall not perform services excluded from the contractor’s **liability insurance coverage**. 894.40a)
3. **True:** Floor drains can be located either within a cell or outside the cell. 890.1800
4. Floor drains above the level of the gas and oil interceptor or basins shall connect to a **stack vent** extending independently to the outer air. 890.520 d)5)
5. **Unions** may be used in the drainage and venting system when accessibly located above ground. 890.350 



# GOV. PRITZKER SIGNS LEGISLATION CREATING WORKER PROTECTION UNIT IN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation on August 23rd creating a Worker Protection Unit within the Office of the Attorney General which will protect Illinois workers from wage theft and other unlawful employment practices.

"When Illinoisans put in a hard day's work, they deserve to be compensated fairly and treated with dignity, and this new Worker Protection Unit will make sure of it," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Attorney General Raoul and Leader Hoffman have led the charge to protect workers' rights, and I'm proud to sign this legislation that ensures the state of Illinois expeditiously prosecutes employers violating state labor laws. Our hardworking residents deserve nothing less."

The new unit law gives the Attorney General's office the express authority to investigate and file suit against violators of the Prevailing Wage Act, the Employee Classification Act, the Minimum Wage Law, the Day and Temporary Labor Services Act and the Wage Payment

and Collection Act.

The new Worker Protection Unit will work collaboratively with the Illinois Department of Labor to detect unlawful conduct but may also take direct legal action against widespread and pervasive wage payment violations and unfair labor practices.

It also creates the Worker Protection Unit Task Force within the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to facilitate information sharing and collaboration between local and state prosecutors and regulators as well as promote a statewide outreach and enforcement effort targeting businesses that violate the state's worker protection laws. The task force will report on its work to the governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2020.

**Senate Bill 161 takes effect on  
January 1, 2020.**



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## 2019-2020 Continuing Education for ALL Illinois Licensed Plumbers

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> **September 27, 2019 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **September 28, 2019 – 8:00 am-12:00 pm	Holiday Inn Express, Vandalia, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **November 1, 2019 – 9:00 am-1:00 pm	Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL	\$35.00

**No Walkins – No Exceptions for the November 1 class - All Registrations for the November 1 class must be received before October 21, 2019**

<input type="checkbox"/> **January 10, 2020 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **February 21, 2020 – 1:00 pm-5:00pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **March 20, 2020 - 9:00 am -1:00pm	Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	\$35.00

**No Walkins – No Exceptions. All Registrations for the March 20 class must be received before March 1, 2020**

<input type="checkbox"/> **April 3, 2020 – 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	*Heartland College, Bloomington/Normal, IL	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> **April 17, 2020 - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Rend Lake College Marketplace, Mt. Vernon, IL	\$50.00

**\*\*Also count as State hours for Certified Plumbing Inspectors**

**Please check the session you will be attending. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Fee must accompany application.**

Sponsored by the Illinois PHCC

IDPH Sponsor # 750-002

Course # 750-002-C1 & 750-006-C1

\*Co-Sponsored by SIUE-ERTC

IDPH Sponsor # 750-035

Course # 750-035-C1

### **4 Credit Hours**

To register, complete this form by checking the location you will attend,  
**provide your complete address, make checks payable to Illinois PHCC and mail to**  
**Illinois PHCC ♦ 821 South Grand Avenue, West ♦ Springfield, Illinois 62704**  
Phone (217) 522-7219

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ License # **058-** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **IMPORTANT:**

**You MUST bring your Plumbers License with you to the program. Please arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to complete the registration process. Directions are available on our website at [www.ilphcc.com](http://www.ilphcc.com)**

**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. Cancellations made prior to (10) working days will be charged a \$15.00 cancellation fee. There will be a \$50.00 service charge for any checks returned due to insufficient funds.**

***In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Illinois PHCC Association will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities at its meetings. Please call 217-522-7219 with any special requests.***



519 South Grand W. - Springfield, IL 62704  
*Representing Over 2,000 Construction Employers*

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August 21, 2019

**Re: SB 1636 – Contractor Prompt Pay Retainage**

The Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA) is proud to announce SB 1636 was signed in to law on August 20, 2019 by Governor J.B. Pritzker. P.A. 101-0432 is effective immediately.

This new law amends the *Contractor Prompt Payment Act* in Illinois, and lowers retainage from 10% to 5% once 50% of a construction project is complete.

Retainage is a common provision in construction contracts which requires that a percentage of a contractor's or subcontractor's earned payment, frequently 10%, is withheld until a project is completed. P.A. 101-0432 will ensure payments earned by contractors and subcontractors is paid to them in a more timely manner. Other benefits of this legislation include:

- Will create a more level playing field between all parties in a construction project.
- Will put an end to abusive retainage practices that negatively impact cash flow.
- Will benefit construction businesses throughout the state; including minorities, women and veterans, by freeing up capital and allowing them to perform more work.
- Will promote growth and employment for construction companies and workers across Illinois.

This legislative victory could not have been accomplished without the leadership of former Illinois Senator John Mulroe and Illinois State Representative Luis Arroyo. IMSCA appreciates their dedication and support of the Illinois construction industry. In addition, we are grateful to Governor J. B. Pritzker for enacting this key legislation. The Governor's action follows the lead of surrounding states who have enacted retainage reform laws to free up capital and permit contractors to perform more work than wait for payment.

IMSCA Members: Association of Subcontractors and Affiliates – Chicago; Associated Steel Erectors of Chicago; Central Illinois Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association; Chicago Area Scaffolding Association; Eastern Illinois Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association; Electrical Contractors Association of Chicago; Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois; Finishing Contractors Association of Chicago; Great Southwestern Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association; Illinois Association Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors; Illinois Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association; Mason Contractors of Greater Chicago; Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Illinois; Mechanical Contractors Association of Chicago; Mid-Illini Mechanical Contractors Association; Middle States Electrical Contractors Association; Mid-Western Illinois Mechanical Contractors Association; National Fire Sprinkler Chapter of Illinois; Northern Illinois - National Electrical Contractors Association; Northeastern Illinois Chapter - National Electrical Contractors Association; Piping Industry Council Rockford Area; Plumbing Contractors Association – Midwest; Quad City Finishing Contractors Association; Rock River Mechanical Contractors Association; Southern Illinois Sheetmetal Contractors Organization; SMACNA Greater Chicago; and Underground Contractors Association of Illinois

IMSCA Officers: Giuseppe Muzzupappa, President (Northeastern Illinois Chapter, NECA); Chad Fricke, Vice President (F.J. Murphy & Son/MCA of Central Illinois); S.J. Peters, Treasurer (PCA & Plumbing Council Midwest); Karsten Pawlik, Secretary (Alpine Demolition Services/ASA Chicago)

IMSCA Staff: Jessica Newbold, Executive Director; Jim Rohlfing, General Counsel (Saul Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr)



# STUPID PLUMBING TRICKS

Take a look at these pictures and see how clever unlicensed people can be when they try to do plumbing work. These photos have been sent to us by licensed plumbers showing some of the things that they have encountered.

Have you seen similar tricks performed by unlicensed individuals? If you would like to share them with others, email them to [bev@ilphcc.com](mailto:bev@ilphcc.com) for inclusion in our next segment of Stupid Plumbing Tricks.



**This flush valve won't wear out from use.**



**When you use unapproved materials for drainage it is easier to connect them with duct tape.**



**Why run the PEX to the ballcock when you can just stick it in the tank?**



**Water supply duct tape.**



**Not too sanitary, but convenient.**





The remainder of the straw that was packed around this heater for insulation.



Wall hung carrier accessory kit.



Just in case the glue doesn't hold.



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**PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY.**

**WE WILL USE THIS INFORMATION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY.**

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Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Cost \$60.95/Code Book**

(includes tabs, Plumbing License Law, Plumbers Licensing Code,  
Plumbing Contractor Registration Code and  
Lawn Irrigation Contractor & Lawn Sprinkler Code)

# \_\_\_\_\_ of code book(s) X \$60.95

**Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail form with payment to:**

**Illinois PHCC  
821 South Grand Avenue, West  
Springfield, IL 62704**

**Make checks payable to the Illinois PHCC.**

**There will be a \$40.00 service charge for any checks returned due to insufficient funds.**

**Questions? Contact the Illinois PHCC at [bev@ilphcc.com](mailto:bev@ilphcc.com) or [shelly@ilphcc.com](mailto:shelly@ilphcc.com)**

**(217) 522-7219**



## New Illinois PHCC Member Benefits

Dear Illinois PHCC Members,

We have been working to develop two new and exciting member benefits. These programs have been designed with our membership in mind.

The value added benefits for you and your employees are a Health Insurance Program, and a rewards and discount program called BenefitHub.

The Health Insurance Program will provide you with competitively priced, group coverage that can be tailor made for your needs. BenefitHub offers a tremendous amount of members-only discounts, special offers, and even cash back on many of the things you and your employees buy every day. There is no cost for Illinois PHCC members to use BenefitHub and offer it to their employees as a reward or incentive.

We have worked closely with Nathan Whiteman of American Central Insurance Services, Inc in Springfield, IL to develop these great offerings, and he is our main contact for these new member benefits. Nathan is a Registered Employee Benefits Consultant and has over a decade of insurance expertise working with trade industries, associations, and multi-employer groups. He will be reaching out to each member via email or phone in an effort to educate our members about these opportunities. Please take a moment when he contacts you so that you can learn more about the Health Insurance Program, and Benefit Hub. The more Illinois PHCC members who participate in the programs, the stronger and better they will become.

Nathan's contact info is below:

Nathan A. Whiteman, REBC®

Registered Employee Benefits Consultant®

[nathan@americancentralins.com](mailto:nathan@americancentralins.com)

Office 217.732.4333 | eFax 217.280.4540

American Central Insurance Services, Inc.

3300 Hedley Rd. Springfield, IL, 62711

# “33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL”

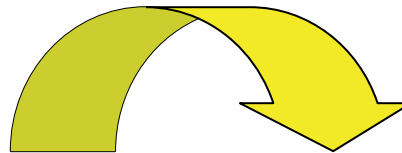
## ILLINOIS BACKFLOW PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM DOUBLETREE HOTEL, BLOOMINGTON, IL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

# 750-035 [ 5.0 ] State Continuing Education Hours Awarded # 750-035-C2

**MODERATOR:** Kim Bateman, SIUE-ERTC

8:00 a.m. Registration and Welcome  
9:00 a.m. Source Water Protection and its Component Adversaries  
Dave McMillan, IRWA  
9:45 a.m. Title 35 and Cross Connection Control---Steve Vance, IEPA  
10:15 a.m. Illinois Department of Public Health Update---Brian Cox, IDPH  
10:45 a.m. Break  
11:00 a.m. Legionella, Cause and Effect-----Darrah Dunlap, IDPH  
11:30 a.m. Legislative Update---Bev Potts, Illinois PHCC

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH



**MODERATOR:** Mike Body, Northern Illinois Chapter President, ABPA

1:00 p.m. Special Applications and the Illinois Plumbing Code  
Bob Schafer, Former Illinois State Plumbing Inspector  
1:45 a.m. Syncta, Backflow Test Management Software  
Tylor Peck---Watts  
2:15 p.m. Rainwater Harvesting & Greywater Recycling Systems  
Adam Hemminger, Highland Tank  
3:00 p.m. ERTC Training Update, Adjournment

PHONE: (618) 650-2030 \* FAX: (618) 650-2210

WEB PAGE: <http://www.siue.edu/ertc>

# 750-035 [ 5.0 ] State Continuing Education Hours Awarded # 750-035-C2



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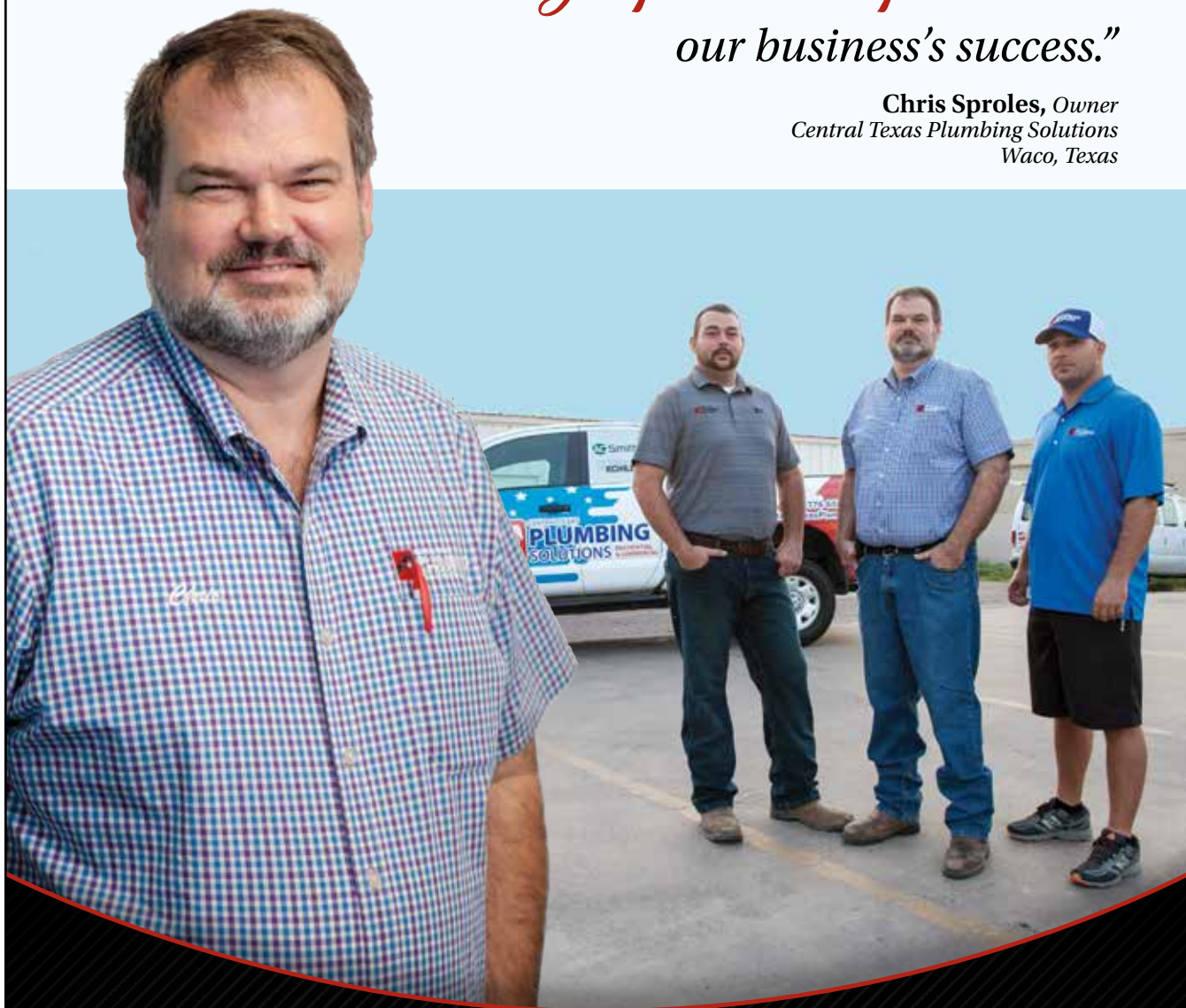
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**Cracks in foundation or concrete?**

**Water in the basement?**

**Poor air quality?**



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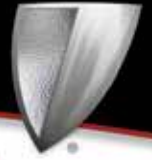
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## Fire Prevention Not a Once-a-Year Responsibility

How often do you think about fire prevention? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly? On the off chance you come across an article on the subject?

Unless your answer to that question is “daily,” you have some work to do.

That might sound dramatic, but the U.S. Fire Administration received more than 100,000 reports of nonresidential building fires each year from 2014–2016<sup>1</sup>. In those incidents, about 90 deaths, 1,350 injuries, and \$2.4 billion in property damage costs were reported. That last figure is about 20 percent of the total dollar loss from all fires.

Some fires have common causes — cooking, faulty electrical wiring, or smoking, for example. But others come from less obvious sources. Here are just a few:

- Dust and debris piles near heat sources or electrical outlets
- Oily rags stored in the open or in a container that isn’t sealed
- Overheated electrical equipment or appliances

While you should review your overall fire safety plan a couple times a year, you should constantly be on the lookout for fire risks. This sounds like a big task, but if you integrate it into your business’s everyday procedures, the time commitment will be minimal. Update your cleaning checklists to include inspection of any new potential hazards you’ve identified. You and your employees will barely notice a change in routine, but your fire risk management strategy will be much more effective.

Also, remind your employees and managers to constantly be on the lookout for anything unusual. Are there any strange noises coming from machines? Any flickering lights? Do vehicles appear to be operating properly?

While it’s true that no matter how diligent you are, a fire is still possible. But if you take proper steps and keep fire prevention at the top of your priority list, you have a better chance of avoiding a catastrophe.

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 6–12. It’s a great opportunity to remind yourself and your employees of the importance of fire prevention, but it shouldn’t be the only time of year you think about it.

<sup>1</sup>FEMA Topical Fire Report Series: Nonresidential Building Fires (2014-2016), July 2018, [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/nonres\\_bldg\\_fire\\_estimates.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/nonres_bldg_fire_estimates.pdf). Accessed August 2019.

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# HR Question OF THE MONTH

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS - WHAT CAN EMPLOYERS ASK?

### Question

We want to make sure we're not asking any interview questions we shouldn't or aren't allowed to be asking of candidates. Specifically, can we ask how much a candidate was earning at his/her last job(s)? What if we've heard that someone has a history of harassment (or making claims of harassment) at a prior place of employment -- can we inquire about that?

### ANSWER

Generally employers should refrain from asking any questions -- whether on an application, during an interview, or otherwise during the hiring process -- that require candidates to disclose, or could elicit unintentional disclosure of, information about their membership in a protected class (i.e., a class that is protected under federal, state or local anti-discrimination laws). This means that at a minimum employers should not directly or even indirectly ask about race, color, sex, religion, national origin, birthplace, age (except when necessary to confirm a minimum age required, and in a yes or no manner only), disability, pregnancy, or marital/family status (and, in some jurisdictions, gender identity or sexual orientation), nor should they ask questions about veteran status or workers' compensation history. To not hire a candidate on the basis of any one of these or similar categories is unlawfully discriminatory and potentially retaliatory. Indeed questions that elicit information about such characteristics can indicate that the employer is intentionally seeking to discriminate or retaliate, and can create significant exposure to the employer if a candidate is not hired after responding to such inquiries. Employers generally cannot take such information into consideration when making employment decisions, and therefore should not be asking such questions of applicants, whether directly or indirectly.


As for questions specifically about prior compensation history, some states (California, for example) now prohibit such inquiries outright. That said, even where these questions are not outlawed, employers should consider whether they want to proceed with making prior salary history or expected income a relevant or necessary part of its hiring process, particularly given the current climate where several states have such laws and a number of others are considering them. Seeking salary history from job applicants and/or relying on prior salary to set employee pay rates can create issues for employers because the data can potentially contribute to gender wage gaps by perpetuating wage inequalities. For reference, CA's statutory language provides that "[w]hen employers make salary decisions during the hiring process based on prospective employees' prior salaries or require women to disclose their prior salaries during salary negotiations, women often end up at a sharp disadvantage and historical patterns of gender bias and discrimination repeat themselves, causing women to continue earning less than their male counterparts." This law is not binding on employers outside of CA, of course, but gender discrimination is unlawful under federal law, which applies in all states, and the federal Equal Pay Act (EPA) specifically and expressly prohibits gender-based wage

discrimination. See <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/epa.cfm> for more information on the EPA. Accordingly, employers in other states may want to consider the underlying reasoning of the CA law, and contemplate taking a similar approach by omitting compensation history or expectation inquiries.

Still, we appreciate that employers in states without express salary history bans may still find value in using responses to questions about pay history or expectations as a starting point for compensation negotiations. So long as such employers are compliant with applicable anti-discrimination and pay equity laws, and inquiries are asked of all candidates (or at least all candidates for the same position), and not just some of them, they arguably have discretion to make such determinations as to these types of inquiries, but again should consider the potential consequences outlined above before proceeding.

As for inquiries related to whether a candidate brought forth a harassment claim with one or more prior employers, we advise against such inquiries. Individuals who have exercised their right to file a harassment complaint or claim, whether with a prior or current employer, are protected against retaliation for having done so -- and not hiring someone due to their complaint history would arguably be construed as a retaliatory action. As such, it is a best practice to avoid even an inquiry about such complaints or claims during (or even after) the hiring process. Indeed, if the employer makes such an inquiry and then the individual is not hired (or faces other adverse action after employment commences), the employer risks exposure to a retaliation claim, and the fact that the employer sought to ask such questions can substantially impair its ability to defend such a charge. On the other hand, if the employer never asks about, and thus is never in possession of, such information (which arguably is not relative to making a hiring or employment decision, regardless), it makes mounting a discrimination or retaliation claim very difficult for the individual in question to do.

Asking candidates whether they were ever accused of workplace harassment (versus having complained of alleged harassment) is not, per se, an unlawful question, but employers should also be cautious before making such inquiries. As an initial matter, any such question must be asked of all candidates, not just some of them, to avoid potential discrimination concerns. As well, the employer must consider that it may not secure accurate or complete information from an applicant, and oftentimes their prior employers will provide only a neutral reference, without verification either way. Finally, individuals who are alleged to have engaged in harassment in the workplace are not necessarily "guilty" of the conduct of which they were accused in all cases, so employers that make such inquiry part of their hiring process would do well to engage in a discourse with any candidates who disclose a prior accusation to determine the facts and circumstances. After discussion, the employer can assess whether it does or does not warrant disqualification from employment opportunity.

Want to know more? **Listen to our podcast** on interview questions. 

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## Are you ready for 2019-2020 CEU Classes?

This year we are offering **THREE** different options for your **4-hour CEU Credits**.

### BACKFLOW REPAIR COURSE

This course is focused on refreshing the Cross Connection Tester on testing procedures as well as hands on repairs for approved assemblies for the state of Illinois. During this class we will be going over our NEW mechanical wall, show you how water pressure fluctuations affect backflow assemblies, how to remedy the situation and be able to see it in a live setting. Also new this year is the Flood Control Integrated System by Wilkins; this system can be designed to shut off a specific water line when a backflow goes into a full dump situation.

### **NEW!!** LARGE BACKFLOW REPAIR (SMALL GROUP) – Max 12 attendees per class

Small group backflow repair class. Classes will consist of 3 individual groups working with an individual instructor to do hands on testing, diagnosis, and repair of large backflow assemblies only. The repair class will involve repairing of the following backflow assemblies:

- 4" Febco 825YD
- 3" Watts 009
- 4" Wilkins 375AST
- 4" Ames 4000SS
- 8" Ames Maxim 400
- 3" Watts 909

### **NEW!!** IRRIGATION CONTACTOR CEU CLASS – Max 22 attendees per class

This class will consist of code review for Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health, correct backflow installations for small valve irrigation systems, and repair of the following small backflow assemblies:

- 1" Wilkins 375 and 975XLU
- 1" Febco 860U and 825YA
- 1" Watts U009

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