

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING•HEATING•COOLING•CONTRACTORS

Volume 107, No. 8

August 2021

PHCCCONNECT2021



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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Brian Rich
Illinois PHCC President

Oh, the month of August! As Google says, August is known as the dog days of summer. National Watermelon Day is August 3rd and National Smile Week is August 5th – 11th. I think it's great to have a week dedicated to smiles. Let's all do something that's healthy and pass on a smile, it's contagious, no vaccines required.

August is also a month where many return to school. Amanda and Rachel are returning to Mizzou to start Amanda's 3rd year of post grad. Jacob will continue to develop as a leader at G.A. Rich and travel to wherever work takes him. Garrett is project managing for us, but will be moving to Chicago to start a new chapter of life at DePaul with a new major of finance. Angi and I will be back to being empty nesters.

As I stated last month, the Illinois PHCC Expos are returning to in person events. Mark your calendars for October 29th for the South Expo being held at the Gateway Center in Collinsville. Looking ahead, our Expo in Oakbrook will return on March 18, 2022, at the Drury Lane Conference Center. Both events offer the opportunity to meet and learn directly from manufacturer reps as well as seeing the latest and greatest products on the market today. Best part, socializing with your peers. On the National level you won't want to miss the CONNECT2021 Convention being held in Kansas City October 20th to the 22nd. Opportunities abound at this event, everything from meet and greets, two awesome keynote speakers, a tradeshow, apprentice contests, and a whole lot of educational sessions. Something for everyone!

The struggle to find new employees is real! Every industry out there is desperately searching for qualified employees and the construction industry is no different. That's one of the reasons why I'm looking forward to these upcoming events. Hoping to bounce ideas off leaders from other contractors on how they are filling the void both in the office and in the field.

You can find the 2021-2022 Illinois PHCC CEU Schedule online now at www.ilphcc.com and in this magazine. Classes start in September. There is a mixture of online and in person classes.

In industry news, PHCC National has a new CEO, Mark S. Ingrao, CCP, CAE will take on his new duties September 7, 2021. As this is exciting news, Michael

Copp will be missed as he moves on at the end of the year. Thank you, Michael. Looking forward to Mark's leadership and welcome his ideas on strengthening PHCC.

"Make an effort to meet people. Interaction with others opens up new and exciting possibilities. Meeting people stimulates our minds, gives us energy, leads to more new encounters and infinitely expands our life and our world."

– Daisaku Ikeda

Brian 🇺🇸

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2021-22 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. As classes are added, they will be posted on our website at www.ilphcc.com. Please visit the website often for the latest information and to register for a class. **Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.** All Illinois PHCC classes also provide State hours for Certified Plumbing Inspectors.

2021-2022 Continuing Education Dates

September 24, 2021 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Online)

October 8, 2021 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Online)

October 29, 2021 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm -

Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL

November 13, 2021- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm (Online)

January 7, 2022 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Online)

February 19, 2022 - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm (Online)

March 18, 2022 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm -

Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, IL

April 22, 2022 - 12:00 pm-4:00 pm (Online)

Registration information is at www.ilphcc.com.

Click the link for the class you would like to attend.


Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.



PLUMBING CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL TIME

All plumbing contractors registered with the Illinois Department of Public Health should receive a renewal form. Even though you may be 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. Your registration is **NOT** considered renewed until full payment and your renewal documents (i.e. Surety Bond, Certificate of Insurance) are received. **All of these items MUST be received on or before September 30th to avoid late penalty.**

Questions on renewals may be directed to the IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Program at 217-524-0791 or to dph.plumbing@illinois.gov. 

ILLINOIS AUXILIARY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

At its June, 2021 meeting, the Illinois Auxiliary voted to award a \$1,200 scholarship to Desmond McCarthy of Lake in the Hills, Illinois. He will be attending Graceland University, followed by the University of Louisville. Desmond plans to make the plumbing industry his future career. He is the grandson of Cathy and Terry McCarthy of Illinois.

Gail McWilliams serves as the Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman.


The Illinois Auxiliary funds their scholarship program through their t-shirt sales, Expo Program Book they produce for the Illinois PHCC Expo, and other fundraisers.

Congratulations to Desmond and best wishes for a successful future.



AUXILIARY DONATES TO THE PHCC

When COVID-19 necessitated a statewide Stay at Home Order, CEU classes for licensed plumbers were suspended. The Illinois PHCC worked to get approval to provide these credit hours online so that plumbers could continue to renew their licenses. Creating these classes was a costly venture to undertake, but the Illinois PHCC felt it was important to the industry to move ahead. The Illinois Auxiliary has always been a vital partner in these classes by helping with the sign-in/out duties. Being unable to assist in that way this year, the Auxiliary decided to help the Illinois PHCC by providing some funding to help offset technology costs that were being incurred. In July, on behalf of the Auxiliary, Treasurer Becky Davis presented a check for \$3,000 to Illinois PHCC President Brian Rich.

The Illinois PHCC greatly appreciates this donation and the Auxiliary's continued support. 



MANDATORY SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING

Public Act 101-0221 (commonly referred to as the Workplace Transparency Act), requires Illinois employers to provide sexual harassment prevention training to their employees on an annual basis, regardless of the size of the company.

Under this law, Illinois employers have until December 31st each year to train employees on sexual harassment prevention. The Act provides minimum standards that must be included in the training. To assist your business in complying with this new law, the Illinois Department of Human Rights has posted the following information on its website:

- A FAQ for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

- Minimum Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Standards for All Employers

Employers must either develop their own sexual harassment prevention training program that equals or exceeds the minimum standards for sexual harassment prevention training outlined in Section 2-109(B) of the Illinois Human Rights Act, or they may use the model training provided by the IDHR. The model training program can be downloaded by visiting <https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/Training/Pages/State-of-Illinois-Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Training-Model.aspx>

For more information please visit IDHR's website at www.illinois.gov/dhr/training.



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By U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA, the CDC, and NIOSH



When you're working in the heat, safety comes first. With the OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool, you have vital safety information available whenever and wherever you need it - right on your mobile phone.

The App allows workers and supervisors to calculate the **heat index** for their worksite, and, based on the heat index, displays a **risk level** to outdoor workers. Then, with a simple «click,» you can get reminders about the **protective measures** that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness-reminders about drinking enough fluids, scheduling rest breaks, planning for and knowing what to do in an emergency, adjusting work operations, gradually building up the workload for new workers, training on heat illness signs and symptoms, and monitoring each other for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

Working in full sunlight can increase heat index values by 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep this in mind and plan additional precautions for working in these conditions.

The OSHA-NIOSH Heat Tool is available in English and Spanish for Android and iPhone devices. To access the Spanish version, set the phone language to Spanish.

Stay informed and safe in the heat, check your risk level.

For more information about safety while working in the heat, see OSHA's heat illness webpage, including online guidance about using the heat index to protect workers. More information on the heat app can be found at www.osha.gov/heat/heat-app.



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COLORADO COURT SENTENCES

AVON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OWNER TO JAIL

A Colorado state court has sentenced the owner of an Avon construction company to jail and ordered restitution for the family of a 50-year-old company worker who suffered fatal injuries in a preventable trench collapse at a Granby work site in June 2018.

The Grand County Court of the State of Colorado sentenced Bryan Johnson, owner of ContractOne Inc., to 10 months in jail for two counts of reckless endangerment and one count of third degree assault related to the death of Rosario Martinez on June 14, 2018. Johnson pleaded guilty to the charges on June 16, 2021.

In its sentencing, the court also ordered Johnson:

- Serve three years' probation.
- Pay Martinez's family restitution not to exceed \$25,000.
- Make charitable contributions to local charities.
- Participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Workers Memorial Day ceremony.
- Complete safety training.
- Not commit any willful or serious future OSHA violations.
- Allow OSHA to inspect his worksites without an administrative warrant.

An investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration determined that Johnson failed to train him or his other workers to identify or avoid hazards related to trenching and excavation. At the time of the collapse, Martinez was installing a water service line at a Granby, Colorado residential construction site. The trench collapsed the day before but Johnson ignored

obvious signs to change his procedures. Martinez's son was on site, and assisted first responders in digging his father out of the trench. Martinez later succumbed to his injuries at a nearby hospital.

OSHA investigators found ContractOne Inc. willfully failed to use a trench protective system as required. The company also failed to conduct regular site inspections to correct potentially hazardous conditions; did not place excavated soil piles a safe distance from trench edges; failed to provide ladders for egress; and did not use appropriate utility location procedures during trenching operations.

"Safety and health is paramount and takes precedence over production or profits," said U.S. Department of Labor Regional Solicitor John Rainwater, in Denver. "The department believes the facts of this case warrant the sentence and we support the District Attorney's efforts to hold Johnson accountable for failing to protect workers under his care and supervision. Incarceration sends a strong message. We believe that prosecuting criminal cases has the ability to change the industry."

In the past decade, the department's Solicitor's Office has increased the number of criminal referrals to the U.S. Department of Justice and forged more partnerships with state and local prosecutors to prosecute employers under state criminal statutes. Criminal enforcement is an effective enforcement tool. The timely prosecution of an individual within the community in which they work, and where the victim often resided, has a strong deterrent effect in the industry and sends a signal to the regulated community that certain behavior, such as that which results in significant harm to workers, will not be tolerated.



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If you have additional questions regarding IMSCA-PAC, please contact Jessica Newbold Hoselton at 217-523-4361 or jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is available on the Board's official website www.elections.il.gov or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL. Contributions are not tax deductible.

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Consider the Importance of Digital Asset Planning

Whether you realize it or not, you probably have amassed a large number of digital assets throughout your lifetime. Digital assets include anything that is created, communicated, sent, received, or stored electronically. Think about all the photos, music, movies, and e-books you have on your computer, smartphone, or in the cloud. Add to that each of the accounts you have created to access online banking, e-mail, shopping, or social media sites. These all make up your digital estate.

If something should happen to you, what happens to your digital accounts and files? Who will have access to them? If your family wants to preserve or download the content, will they be allowed to do so? Even if you provide a list of user IDs and passwords to your heirs, accessing someone else's online accounts may violate applicable terms of service agreements or state or federal law.

In 2015, the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (RUFADAA) was created. The purpose of the act is to give individuals the opportunity to specify how and when the executor of their estate (or agent under a power of attorney) can access their digital accounts or assets, subject to some limitations. To date, almost 45 states and the District of Columbia have enacted this legislation and more are considering it.

If access to, and control of, your electronic files and accounts is important to you, here are a few simple things you can discuss with your attorney to help ensure your executor has the access you desire:

Compiling a list of user names and passwords. Keep the list in a safe place. Because this information becomes public record during the probate process, discuss with your attorney how to best include this information in your overall estate plan.

Checking website policies. Some sites automatically close or delete inactive accounts, while others will disable an account upon request by the family or executor. Certain websites offer an online tool that allows the user to specify how their account should be handled upon death or incapacity and name a trusted person to access the account. Consider taking advantage of these tools when available.

Leaving instructions in your estate planning documents. Leave instructions granting, or restricting, access to your digital accounts for your executor or agent in the appropriate estate planning documents such as your will or power of attorney. Talk to your attorney about whether instructions provided in a website's online tool or those in estate planning documents will take precedence in the event of a conflict.

When creating or updating your estate plan, be sure to talk with your attorney about how you want your digital assets to be handled. Planning now may help save your loved ones significant time and frustration in the future.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered an offer of insurance or legal, financial, tax or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all losses. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. This information is current as of its publication date and is subject to change. Some of the services referenced herein are provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated. Federated provides access to these services with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances. All rights reserved.



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Avoid Workplace Hazards with Slip, Trip, and Fall Controls

Each year, thousands of workers are injured or disabled as a result of slips, trips, and falls, which may occur anytime, anywhere, or to anyone. These injuries could create long-lasting complications for workers who sustain them, and unfortunately, they are not uncommon occurrences in the workplace — about 20 to 25 percent of all occupational-injury accidents involve slips, trips, and falls.¹ Causes often include:

- Failure to properly use equipment
- Haste
- Inappropriate footwear
- Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Inattention
- Obstacles in walkways
- Poor lighting and vision
- Slippery surfaces
- Unsafe ladder usage

Fortunately, many of these injuries can be avoided by using controls designed to help you recognize slip, trip, and fall hazards at your workplace and determine what preventative safety measures should be taken.

Engineering controls involve evaluating your physical environment and rectifying the hazards that may cause employees to slip, trip, or fall.² These controls also include changing processes to ensure that safety is a top priority and verifying that the physical environment at your facility is up to code.

Administrative controls involve critically assessing work procedures and policies, and implementing effective rules, schedules, and training with the goal of reducing employee interaction with potentially hazardous situations over long periods of time.² These controls can help change the way people do their jobs through the use of education, training, proper signage, maintenance, correcting poor work practices, regular inspections, and good housekeeping, to name a few.³

Safe work practices take what the administrative controls propose and turn them into actions that employees and employers should follow. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that at least one third of the nation's workforce is exposed to hazards that could cause slips, trips, or falls.⁴ It is up to both supervisors and employees alike to follow safe work practices and regularly ensure that rules are being followed. Document any problematic areas and the remedial actions taken to address those areas, and ensure documentation includes descriptions of any accidents as complete as possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can help to reduce risks of injury or death in circumstances where there may be an increased risk of slips, trips, or falls. Although there may not be a way to eliminate a hazard in a workplace, PPE can help to control the hazard rather than eliminating it.³

Utilizing workplace controls to create and maintain a safe work environment is imperative in helping to avoid unnecessary slips, trips, and falls. And remember to respond quickly and appropriately if a slip, trip, or fall does occur.

¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *SOII Data (2017)*, Table R4. Accessed August 2019.

² Advanced Consulting and Training LTD. <https://advancedct.com/the-measures-for-controlling-slip-trip-and-fall-hazards-at-work/#:~:text=Administrative%20controls%20include%20the%20following,sight%20obstruction%20and%20over%2Dreaching>

³ Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Safety Council – 46E0-HT10. <https://www.osha.gov/harwoodgrants/grantmaterials/f/2006/46e0-ht10>

⁴U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. May 6, 2021. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2021/fatal-and-nonfatal-falls-slips-and-trips-in-the-construction-industry.htm>

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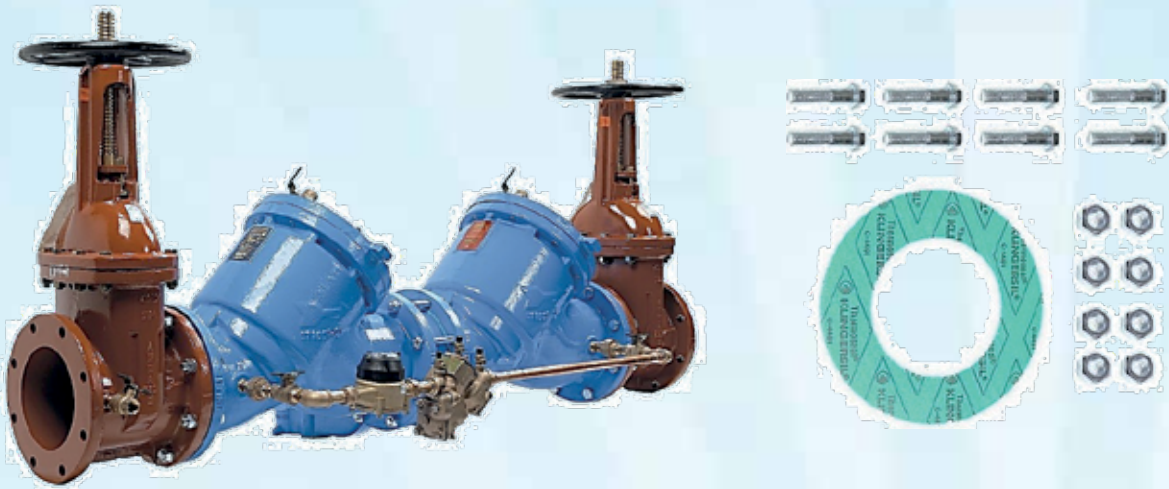
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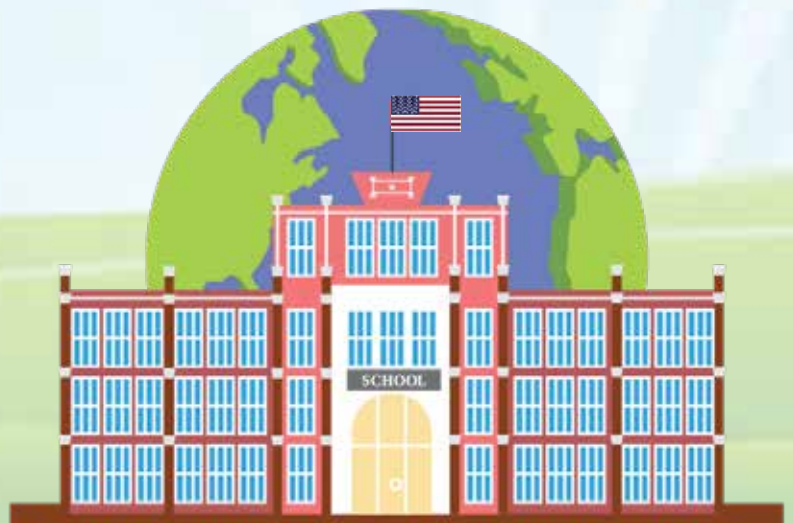
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