

# ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

Volume 109, No. 9

September, 2023



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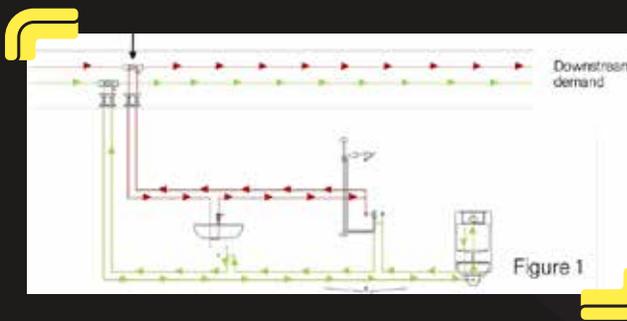
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# PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Mike Ehret  
Illinois PHCC President

As we approach the end of summer and the beginning of fall, we need to make sure that if you plan on going to PHCC Connect October 25-27, 2023 in Ohio that you are registered.

As I was learning the plumbing and mechanical business, what I remember the most about developing relationships in this business is that a lot of them came from attending the state and national conventions with my parents.

These events were a time to get out of the work shell and daily grind to see what was new and upcoming. We get so involved in our businesses that we sometimes fail to see new opportunities that are out there. These events give us time to share and learn about these with and from other contractors from around the country.

That is why I encourage everyone that can, to attend events such as Connect 2023 in Cleveland.

Thanks for reading,

*Mike* 

## DIRECTORY ADDITION

One of our members was inadvertently left out of the annual Illinois PHCC Membership Directory. Please add the following company to your copy:

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2023**

CCA of PHCC Meeting  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Phoenix, AZ

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**OCTOBER 6, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**OCTOBER 26, 2023**

ERTC Backflow Symposium  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Bloomington, IL

**OCTOBER 25-27, 2023**

PHCC CONNECT '23  
Huntington Convention Center  
Cleveland, OH

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**MARCH 22, 2024**

IL PHCC Expo & Educational Day  
Drury Lane Conference Center  
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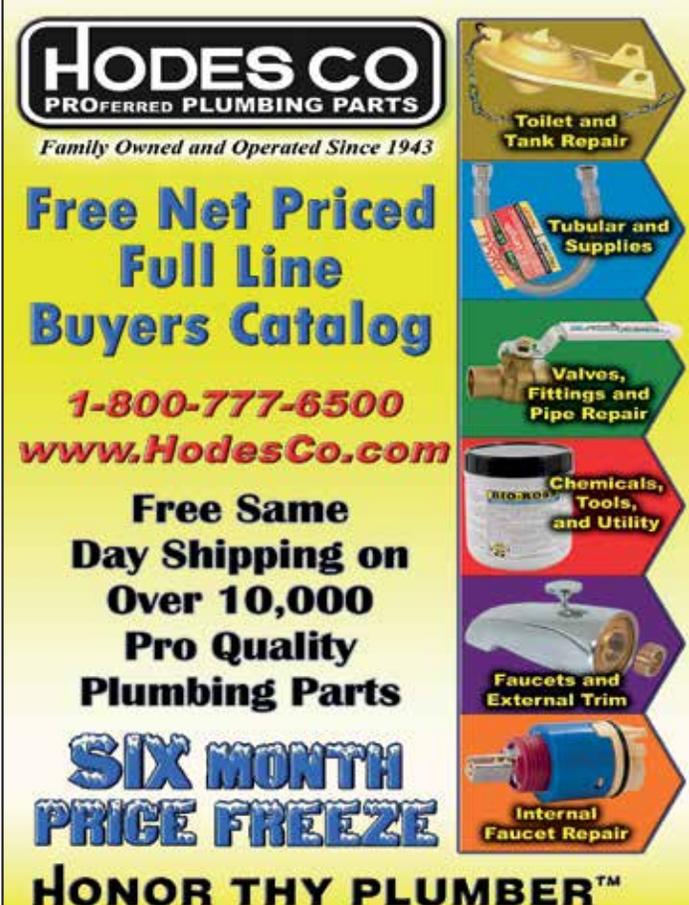


## PLUMBING CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL TIME

All plumbing contractors registered with the Illinois Department of Public Health should have received their renewal form by now. 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 [dph.plumbing@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.plumbing@illinois.gov). 



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# 2023/24 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

The Illinois PHCC schedule for online and in-person classes for the 2023 renewal year is listed below. These classes offer a minimum of 3 different speakers and topics in each class.

All Illinois PHCC classes will provide State hours for Certified Inspectors and Licensed Plumbers.

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. Please visit our website at [www.ilphcc.com](http://www.ilphcc.com) for the latest information and to register for a class. Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.

## 2023-2024 Continuing Education Dates

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
8:00am – 12:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, October 6, 2023**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, November 10, 2023**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, February 16, 2024**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, March 22, 2024**  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook  
Terrace, IL

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
(Online) 



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# 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](http://www.illinois.gov/dhr/training).



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# PHCC CONNECT 2023

Oct. 25-27, 2023 / Cleveland, Ohio



## Dive Deeper into Union-Related Developments this Fall at PHCCCONNECT2023

PHCC's Union-Affiliated Contractors (UAC) will be offering several timely and relevant educational sessions planned with signatory plumbing and HVAC signatory contractors in mind but will also offer practical and beneficial information for open shop PHCC contractors at PHCCCONNECT2023, Oct. 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio. Register today to access the knowledge and best practices you need to improve your operations and bottom line.



## Two UAC Hosted Sessions on Oct. 25

Presented by attorney **Christina Wernick** of Laner Muchin, LTD



### Employer Preparation – Remaining Ready Before, During & After Union Trust Fund Audits

This session will focus on how to prepare for all stages of a fringe benefit compliance audit. You'll learn what to anticipate before the audit begins, what documents are necessary, how to advocate interim audit challenges, how to challenge an inflated audit report after issuance, and more.

### Fund Trustee Realities & Responsibilities

This presentation will educate trustees of union multiemployer benefit funds about their growing fiduciary responsibilities. Attendees will explore common pitfalls for trustees such as how to identify and avoid conflicts of interest, party-in-interest transactions, plus adhering to proper trustee expense submissions, and addressing the latest legal challenges impacting trustees.

# BONUS!

On Thursday, Oct. 26, 4 p.m.-5 p.m., the UAC will host an Open Roundtable discussion with the United Association.

We invite you to join us in an informative, frank and interesting roundtable discussion on a range of relevant industry topics with leaders from the **United Association (UA)**. This UAC forum is applicable to both signatory plumbing & HVAC contractors and will also be of interest to our open shop PHCC-affiliated contractors. Engage with several UA leaders, including **Tom Bigley**, Director – Plumbing Services; **Ray Boyd** – Director of Training; and **Joseph Fernandez** – Special Representative. Facilitators will be PHCC President **Dave Frame** and UAC Chairman **Brian Rich**.



## Additional Educational Sessions of Interest:

- A Closer Look at A2L Refrigerants
- Can We Chat...GPT?
- Safety and Productivity through Effective Training Practices
- Walk Away Wealthy in new Economic & Technological Times
- Fraud in a Changing Workplace Environment



Be sure to join us at PHCCCONNECT2023, where we can all recognize UAC Vice Chair **Dave Frame** for his tremendous contributions as PHCC National President, including his continued support of UAC. See him pass the baton to new PHCC leadership during the closing reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame!

# DON'T MISS OUT

Register for PHCCCONNECT2023 today:  
[phccweb.org/connect](http://phccweb.org/connect) or call 1-800-533-7694



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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY BEV POTTS

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Following adjournment of the Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly, bills that were passed in both the House and Senate are sent to the Governor for his action over the summer. Below are pieces of industry related legislation that have now been signed into law. Legislators will return to Springfield for 3 days in October and 3 days in November for their fall Veto Session.

## **Plumbing/Piping/Trade Related Bills:**

### **HB 1190 (B. Morgan)**

Amends the Illinois Underground Natural Gas Storage Safety Act to provide that, in the case of a verified facility release, the owner and operator of the underground natural gas storage facility is responsible for specified actions. Requires the installation of water separators and treatment equipment to be done by an Illinois Licensed Plumber. Signed by the Governor on June 30th to become Public Act 103-0120. Becomes effective 1/1/24.

### **HB 1286 (K. Stuart)**

Amends the Equitable Restrooms Act to provide any multiple-occupancy restroom may be all-gender. Requires specified signage, stall dividers, and other provisions; prohibits the use of urinals. Provides ratio requirements on the number of required fixtures. Requires IDPH to adopt rules to implement the provisions. Signed by the Governor on August 11th to become Public Act 103-0518.

### **HB 2621 (S. Kifowit)**

The Illinois Department of Public Health shall create a pilot program to allow the Department to enter into an agreement with a municipality that employs a State of Illinois Certified Plumbing Inspector to

do inspections on behalf of the Department and submit appropriate documentation as requested to verify the inspections were completed to the standards required by the Department and outlined in the partnership. Signed by the Governor on July 28th to become Public Act 103-0321. Becomes effective on 1/1/24.

### **SB 1715 (S. Hilton)**

Amends the Illinois Plumbing License Law. Provides that the Department shall adopt a rule requiring that for each drinking fountain in any construction where a drinking fountain is required under the Illinois Plumbing Code, there shall also be a bottle filling station or a combined bottle filling station and drinking fountain. The IDPH shall adopt rules and implement this requirement by July 1, 2026. Signed by the Governor on June 30th to become Public Act 103-0223.

### **SB 1804 (L. Murphy)**

Provides that a refrigerant designated as approved in accordance with the safe alternatives policy of the United States Code shall be allowed for use in the State as long as any equipment containing such refrigerant is listed and installed in accordance with safety standards and use conditions imposed pursuant to such designation. Provides that no unit of local government or municipality shall be restricted from authorizing or prohibiting alternative refrigerants otherwise authorized for use in the State. Signed by the Governor on June 30th to become Public Act 103-0230 and became effective on that date.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY BEV POTTS

## SB 2368 (D. Koehler)

Amends the Capital Development Board Act. In provisions about occupying a newly constructed commercial building in a non-building code jurisdiction, modifies the standards by which a qualified inspector must file a certification of inspection with a municipality. Provides that, once a building permit is issued or construction begins when no building permit is needed, the code in effect on January 1 of that calendar year applies for the duration of the permit or construction. Modifies provisions limiting applicability, modifies definitions, and makes other changes. Modifies how municipalities with a population of less than 1,000,000 and all counties must identify local building codes. Amends the Illinois Residential Building Code Act to make conforming changes. Use of the Illinois Plumbing Code is required. Signed by the Governor on August 4th to become Public Act 103-0510. Becomes effective 1/1/24.

## SB 1570 (K. Lightford)

This bill would allow municipalities and school districts to utilize the design/build method. Signed by the Governor on August 4th to become Public Act 103-0491. Becomes effective 1/1/24.

Please reach out to me with any questions or comments on this or any other legislation.





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# ERTC Presents: Illinois Backflow Symposium Thursday October 26th, 2023 Doubletree Hotel Bloomington, Illinois

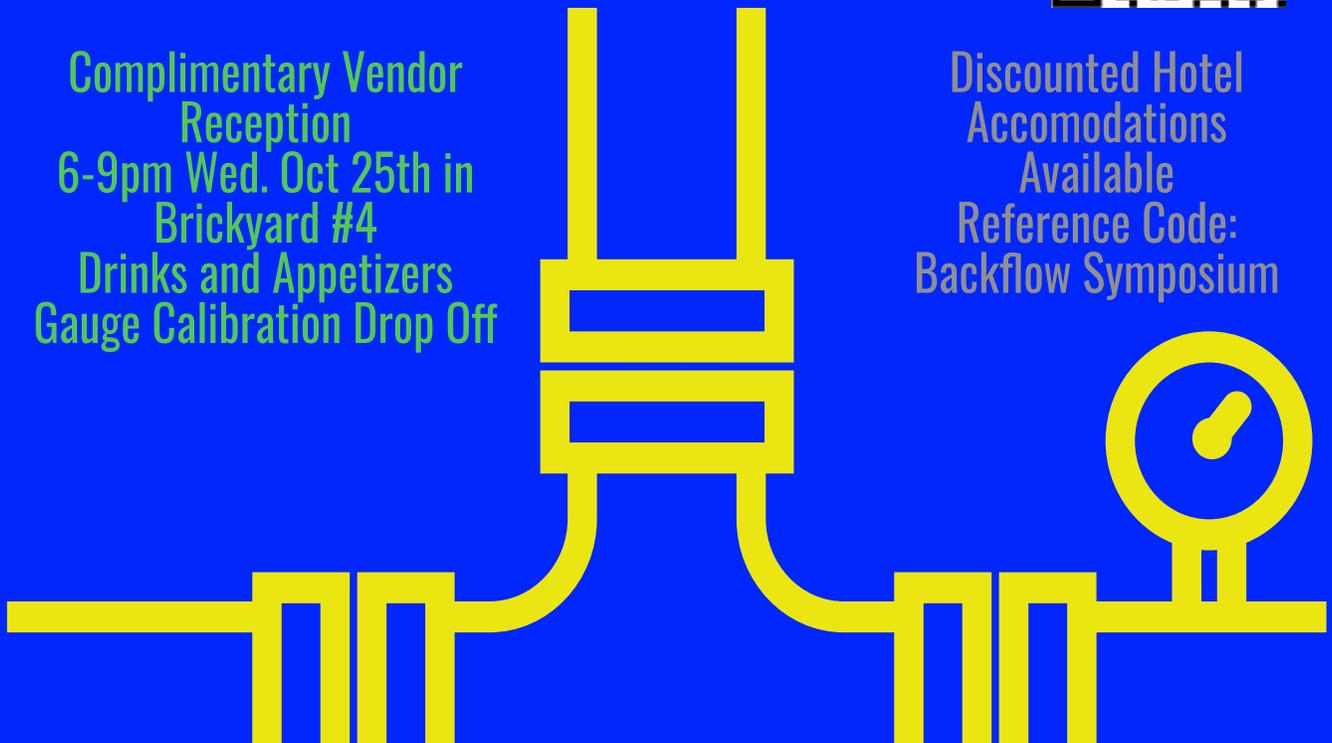
7:30am - Registration & Continental Breakfast - Vendor Area Open  
8:30am \*IEPA\* Chris Johnston - Cross-Connection Code Review  
9:15am \*IRWA\* Dave McMillan – Lead Service Line Replacement  
10:00am \*IDPH\* Illinois Department of Public Health Update  
10:45am - Break - Vendor Area Open  
10:55am - Bob Schafer—Special Applications and the Illinois Plumbing Code  
11:45am - ERTC Training Update, Outline of CCCDI Recertification Program  
12:00pm - 1:15pm \*Catered Southern BBQ Lunch\* - Vendor Area Open  
1:15pm - Kurt Harris, UR Trench Safety-Confined Space and Excavation Safety  
2:00pm - Josh Goeden, Mid-Continent-Leak Detection Technology  
3:00pm - Adjournment

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

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# NEWS FROM IMSCA

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Jessica Newbold Hoselton, Executive Director of the Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA) provides the following reminders about some recently approved requirements that may apply to you and your business. Please find information below regarding the IL Department of Labor's Equal Pay Certificate, and the Paid Leave for All Workers Act.

## **IDOL Equal Pay Certificate**

Per HB 4604 (P.A. 102-0705) of the 102nd General Assembly, private businesses with 100 or more employees are required to submit an application to obtain an Equal Pay Registration Certificate by providing certain pay, demographic and other data to the IL Department of Labor by March 24, 2024 and recertify every two years after the first submission. The law also requires such employers to submit certain information with their application, including: a statement certifying that the business is in compliance with the Equal Pay Act of 2003 and other State and Federal laws related to equal pay. For the purposes of this requirement, "business" is defined as "any private employer who has 100 or more employees in the State of Illinois and is required to file an Annual Employer Information Report EEO-1 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, but does not include the State of Illinois or any political subdivision, municipal corporation, or other governmental unit or agency. Please visit IDOL's Equal Pay Registration Certificate page at [labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/conmed/eprc.html](http://labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/conmed/eprc.html) to access the online portal that businesses must use to submit their contact information and required data to IDOL, a training guide for use of the portal, a compliance statement template, and other certification information and resources. In addition, you are encouraged to review the Frequently Asked Questions section of the IDOL webpage.

## **Paid Leave for All Workers Act**

On January 10, 2023, the Illinois General Assembly approved SB 208 (P.A. 102-1143), the "Paid Leave for All Workers Act". This new law requires private employers to provide earned paid leave to employees to be used for any reason. The Paid Leave for All Workers Act takes effect on January 1, 2024 and sets forth a minimum of 40 hours (or 5 days) paid leave for all employees (regardless of size of employer).

**The new law includes an exemption for signatory employers of collective bargaining agreements in the construction industry** and states the following: *"In no event shall this Act apply to any employee working in the construction industry who is covered by a bona fide collective bargaining agreement..."*. In addition, the Act includes a very specific definition of "construction industry": *"Construction industry" means any constructing, altering, reconstructing, repairing, rehabilitating, refinishing, refurbishing, remodeling, remediating, renovating, custom fabricating, maintenance, landscaping, improving, wrecking, painting, decorating, demolishing, or adding to or subtracting from any building, structure, highway, roadway, street, bridge, alley, sewer, ditch, sewage disposal plant, waterworks, parking facility, railroad, excavation or other structure, project, development, real property, or improvement, or to do any part thereof, whether or not the performance of the work herein described involves the addition to or fabrication into, any structure, project, development, real property, or improvement herein described of any material or article of merchandise. "Construction industry" also includes moving construction related materials on the job site or to or from the job site, snow plowing, snow removal, and refuse collection.*

However, while the law exempts signatory contractors in the construction industry from these new requirements, **the new law will apply to a contractor's administrative and other support staff who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.** Please visit IDOL's Paid Leave for All Workers Act page at [labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/paidleave.html](http://labor.illinois.gov/laws-rules/paidleave.html) to access more information on this new law. The webpage also includes a Frequently Asked Questions section.





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## Have You Started Thinking About Digital Estate Planning?

---

Many people have accounts online — from email accounts to banking, you likely are subscribed to a variety of sites. With so much of your life taking place online, what happens to your accounts when you are no longer there to manage them? It's important to plan for these digital assets to prevent any financial or sentimental losses. While laws and regulations around data and digital assets are still developing, there are succession planning steps you can take to prepare now.

### How to Start Digital Estate Planning

- Take inventory of your digital assets, including account names, usernames, and passwords. You will also want to ensure your assets are up-to-date.
- Decide how you want your digital assets handled.
- Ensure your accounts are password protected and terms-of-service agreements are buttoned up.
- Pick a digital executor who you entrust to carry out your wishes for your digital assets.

### What to Consider

- Your digital assets may include things like social media accounts, credit card accounts, or online store accounts.
- Organizing your digital assets now can help your loved ones and executor better manage your estate.
- Without digital estate planning and clear directions, it can be difficult for loved ones and your executor to access your accounts when you're no longer here or able to manage them.

A qualified attorney can help you sort through your options and identify a plan. Reach out to your Federated<sup>®</sup> marketing representative for a referral to a member of Federated's nationwide network of independent and experienced attorneys.

*This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered another 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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## Keeping Up With Hazard Communication

If your organization produces, transports, and uses hazardous chemicals, it is important to [train employees](#) to interact with these substances safely because failing to use and store hazardous chemicals correctly could lead to dangerous health side effects or even contribute to a workplace fire.

According to OSHA, all employees should have access to and training on Safety Data Sheets (SDS), a comprehensive hazard communication (HazCom) safety program, and all chemicals must be labeled.<sup>1</sup>

**Brush up on your HazCom knowledge by answering the questions below.**

**How are hazardous chemicals classified?** A hazardous chemical is anything that poses a health, safety, or environmental risk. Health hazards include chemicals that can cause everything from mild skin irritation to cancer. Safety hazards include chemicals that can explode or ignite, and environmental hazards include water pollution and ecosystem disruption.

**Should I have labels on hazardous chemicals at my business?** Yes. Hazardous chemical manufacturers, distributors, and importers are required to provide labels. These labels should feature the product name or number, supplier information, a signal word (e.g., Danger), pictogram, hazard statement, and precautionary statement.

**What are Safety Data Sheets (SDS)?** A safety data sheet includes 16 sections detailing the properties of a chemical, its hazards, protective measures, and safety precautions for handling and storing.

**What are other HazCom best practices?**

- Implement a written [safety program](#) that is available to all employees.
- Annually, [train all workers](#) on any new label elements and SDS formats.
- Review chemicals stored at your workplace on an annual basis.
- Keep physical copies of SDS' in close proximity to where the chemicals are stored.

For more information and helpful resources on hazard communication, [reach out to your local Federated® marketing representative](#).

1. <https://www.osha.gov/hazcom> Hazard Communication. Accessed 6/14/23.

*This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. Some of the services referenced herein may be 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 are not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with respect to specific regulatory requirements.*

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Find Class Dates or Register online at  
[www.shopbackflow.com/illinois-course-info](http://www.shopbackflow.com/illinois-course-info)



## CEU Registration Form 2023 - 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 IL PL# (Starts with 058 or J): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please CHECK which class you would like to attend:

**BACKFLOW TESTER REFRESHER \$110 – Max Capacity 10 Students**  
 This course is focused on refreshing the Cross Connection Tester on testing procedures as taught by the State of Illinois. This is a hands-on course. Attendees must have a valid CCCDI to attend.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> October 18 <sup>th</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> January 10 <sup>th</sup>  | <input type="checkbox"/> March 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 6 <sup>th</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> February 7 <sup>th</sup>  | <input type="checkbox"/> April 10 <sup>th</sup> |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> February 21 <sup>st</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> April 24 <sup>th</sup> |

**SMALL BACKFLOW REPAIR (SMALL GROUP) – Max 12 attendees per Class \$125 per person**  
 Small group backflow repair class. Classes will consist of small groups focusing on repairing ¾” – 2” RPZ’s. Attendees will have the Ability to work on “live” valves during this 4-hour CEU Class.

March 27<sup>th</sup>

**LARGE BACKFLOW REPAIR (SMALL GROUP) - Max 12 attendees per class \$125 per person**  
 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.

January 24<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*All classes will be held from 5pm – 9pm with Dinner included\*\***

**\*\*\*THE FEE FOR ATTENDING THESE CLASSES IS NON-REFUNDABLE\*\*\***

**Location:** Test Gauge, Inc. | 1051 E Main St, Unit 107 | East Dundee, IL 60118

**Toll Free:** (866) 836-8692 | **Local:** (847) 836-8690 | **Email:** [salesgroup@testgauge.net](mailto:salesgroup@testgauge.net)