



International
FireStop Council

Saving lives

through passive

fire protection



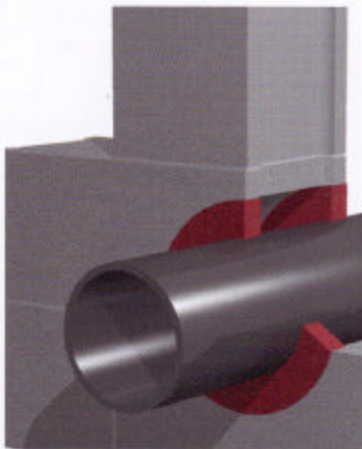


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What is "Passive" fire protection?

Passive fire protection is an integral part of fire protection engineering. Firestop systems protect against the passage of flames, deadly gases and toxic smoke through openings that are created by penetrations, joints and other breaches in fire-resistive walls, floors and floor/ceiling assemblies. The integrity of fire-rated assemblies is restored by firestop systems. Other materials such as duct enclosures, mineral wool insulation, and fire-rated drywall are also critical in forming "passive" fire resistive compartments in buildings. Building codes require third-party tested systems to be installed wherever fire-resistive construction is compromised by openings.



What are "third-party" tested systems?

Building codes require that firestop systems be tested in accordance with ASTM E814, E119, E1966. Third party testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories or Omega Point Laboratories, perform those tests. Manufacturers specify the system to be tested, and if the system performs to the particular test standard, a system is published. The installation must comply with the details of the tested system.



Passive Fire Protection in the Codes

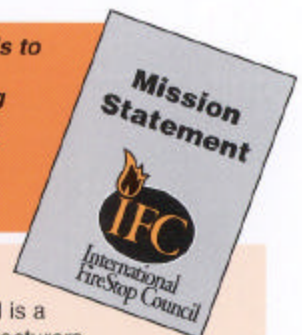
Tested systems are required to be installed in accordance with model building codes such as:

NFPA	Life Safety 101
BOCA	National Building Code (NBC)
ICBO	Uniform Building Code (UBC)
SBCCI	Standard Building Code (SBC)
IAPMO	Uniform Plumbing Code
IBC	International Building Code
NFPA	Building Code 5000

Codes are not always easy to interpret, and are constantly changing. That's why IFC is committed to educating the construction marketplace as to the importance and the nature of the codes. New codes are emerging, and the debate over the roles of active and passive fire protection in modern construction continue to escalate.

Regardless of the debate, the IFC remains steadfast to its belief that the best fire protection systems are those that integrate the benefits of both active and passive fire protection. In short: "A Balanced Approach"

Formed in 1990, IFC's mission is to promote the technology of fire containment in modern building construction through research, education, and development of safety standards and code provisions.



What is the IFC?

The International Firestop Council is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers, distributors, and installers of fire protective materials and systems. For designers, contractors and inspectors, IFC offers tools such as the *Recommended IFC Guidelines for Evaluating Firestop Systems Engineering Judgments*. This document is an important guide to understanding what to do when third-party testing does not cover an application. The *Building Inspection Guidelines for Firestopping* offers inspectors a guide to building code requirements and recommendations for the inspection process.



“Active” vs. “Passive” fire protection: Both are necessary?

A balanced fire protection system is comprised of three key elements: Detection, Suppression, and Containment. Without any one of these elements, total protection would be compromised.

“Active” fire suppression includes mechanical systems that are designed to control and/or extinguish fires after they have started, such as sprinklers. But “active” systems do not control propagation of smoke and gases, the leading cause of death in fires.

“Passive” fire protection functions to contain fires within the areas in which they start, preventing loss of life by preventing the products of combustion (smoke, hot gases and flames) from spreading throughout a building. “Passive” fire protection refers to fire-resistive construction and the code-required, third-party tested, firestop systems that are installed to restore the rating of fire-resistive construction.

Fire is a dangerous enough phenomenon that redundancy in fire protection is necessary. Having “passive” protection in place helps assure building occupants that there will be time to exit occupancies before gases, fire and smoke spread throughout the building.



Who installs “Passive” fire protection systems?

Firestop is not a separately licensed construction trade, so in reality, many different trades can install their own firestop. It is common to find electricians, plumbers or drywallers who may install firestopping systems. In many jurisdictions, specialty firestop contractors relieve the other trades of the firestop installation.

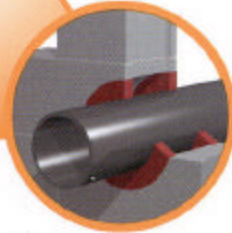
For a building owner or architect, it makes sense to insist on a qualified installer to do the firestopping, ensuring single source liability for firestopping. Factory Mutual Research, in conjunction with the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), offers accreditation and approval of firestop contractors to assure quality firestop applications.



Detection



Suppression



Containment

Balanced Fire Protection



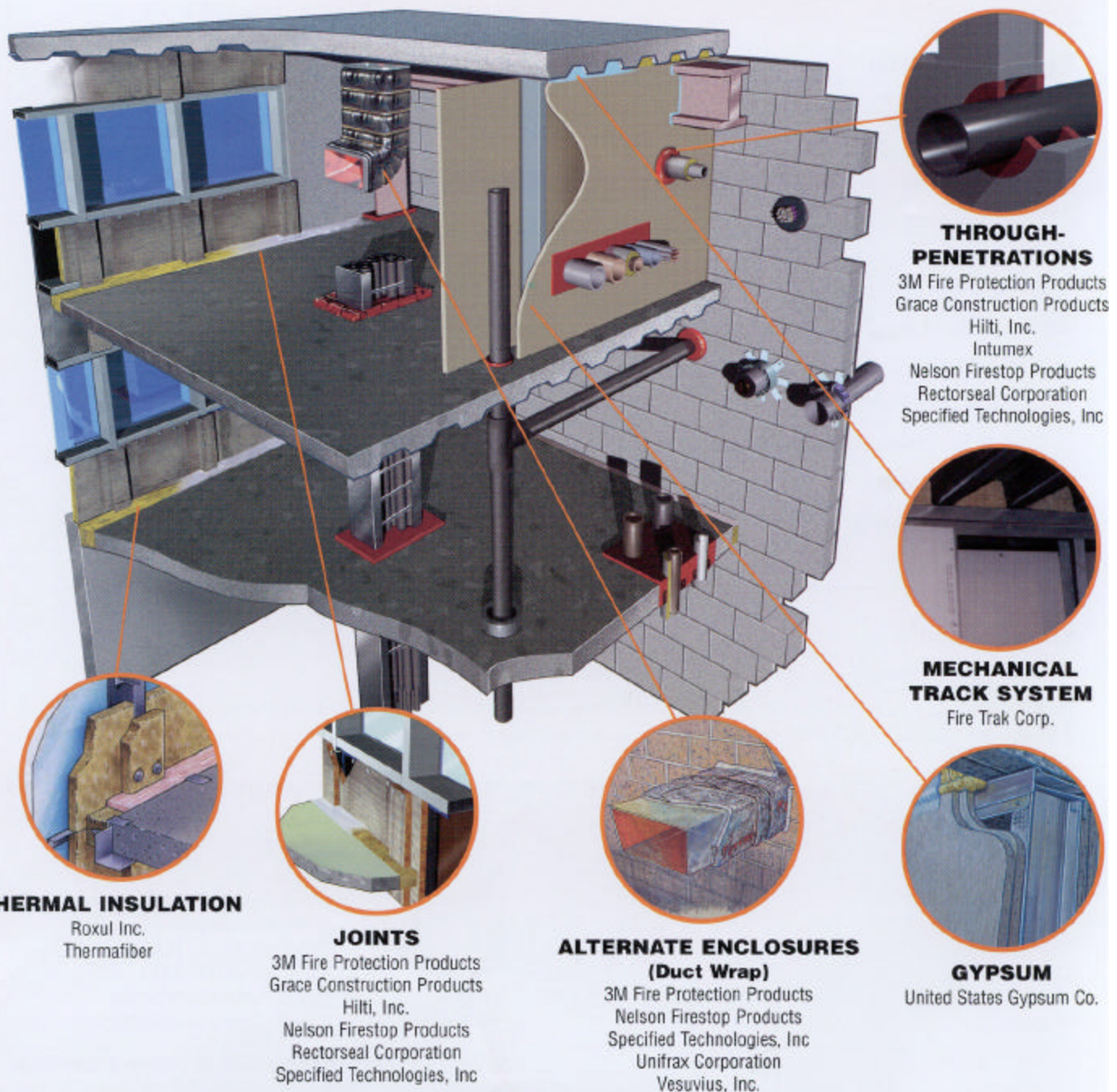
**International
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IFC working together for one cause.

Join forces with the leaders of the Passive Fire Protection Industry

Total passive fire protection cannot be achieved with the use of a singular product. It is the use of many products designed for specific applications that comprise a complete passive fire protection system. When installed properly, these products work in concert with one another to create effective barriers against the passage of flames, smoke, and superheated gases. Used in conjunction with other fire protection methods, properly installed passive fire protection will save lives, protect property, and minimize business losses.

The IFC, a not for profit organization, is comprised of many of the industry's leading manufacturers of passive fire protection products. Illustrated below are the product groups represented by our current membership. If you would like to be part of this dynamic industry leading association simply contact us or fill out the membership application on the back.



THERMAL INSULATION

Roxul Inc.
Thermafiber

JOINTS

3M Fire Protection Products
Grace Construction Products
Hilti, Inc.
Nelson Firestop Products
Rectorseal Corporation
Specified Technologies, Inc

ALTERNATE ENCLOSURES

(Duct Wrap)

3M Fire Protection Products
Nelson Firestop Products
Specified Technologies, Inc
Unifrax Corporation
Vesuvius, Inc.

THROUGH- PENETRATIONS

3M Fire Protection Products
Grace Construction Products
Hilti, Inc.
Intumex
Nelson Firestop Products
Rectorseal Corporation
Specified Technologies, Inc

MECHANICAL TRACK SYSTEM

Fire Trak Corp.

GYPSUM

United States Gypsum Co.