

Subject **May 2021 MIACCA Newsletter**  
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Reply-To M.J. D'Smith <mjdsmith@miacca.org>  
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*Working hard to Protect, Promote & Educate our Profession*

## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



**MICHIGAN**  
AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION

### **Edition Highlights**

- **MIACCA's Statewide Permit April 14th CCC meeting update**
- **Cancelled -Skilled Trades Roundtable with Director Hawks May 13th**
- **MIACCA Bill SB 60 in the House Regulatory Reform Committee!**
- **2020 Utility Annual VAPS Reports**
- **May is National Electrical Safety Month**
- **ACCA Indiana Training; Practical HVAC - Beyond the Box Diagnostics**
- **Federated Insurance When Disaster Strikes your Electrical System**

## **Message from President Phil Forner**

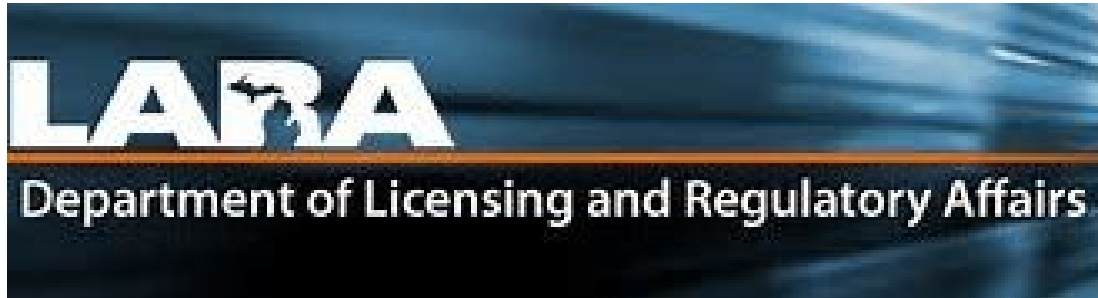
May is National Electrical Safety Month. As with all safety months, it is important to take the time to educate your technicians about electrical safety. This is also an opportunity to educate your clients about HVAC electrical safety and the importance of annual maintenance. This is where your qualified team can assure them that you can make sure that their equipment is running properly, thermostats are engaging correctly and there are no issues around the unit that can cause an electrical mishap. Please read through our newsletter as we have put some tips and reference materials to share with your team. Remember to prepare yourselves for the unexpected power surges that will be coming with the spring storms that will keep you busy.

MIACCA continues to look for members who are interested in joining the various board committees, such as Legislative and Workforce Development. Please contact our Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith at [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org).

Please continue to utilize these COVID-19 resources from our industry experts:

ACCA resources [here](#), Federated Insurance [here](#), NATE resources [here](#), ASHRAE resources [here](#)

*As always stay safe and keep up the great work!*



## **MIACCA's Initiative on the Statewide Permit discussed at the CCC's April 14th Meeting.**

At the April 14th Construction Code Commission (CCC) meeting, MIACCA's request for a statewide permit was on the agenda. They had sought input for building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permit applications. MCL 125.1510(1) requires these applications to be on a form prescribed by the commission. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) highly encourages the CCC to prescribe these forms, and the CCC acknowledges assistance from the Bureau of Construction Codes.

For your reference, this was the [MIACCA proposed form](#), that we submitted.

Executive Director, M.J. D'Smith was in attendance and gave comment in support of the commission continuing to finalize a statewide permit. Her notes on the meeting can be [found here](#).

Their next meeting is July 21st, 2021 and MIACCA will continue to keep you informed.

## **Skilled Trades Roundtable with Director Hawks - May 13th - Cancelled**

This month's Skilled Trades Roundtable has been cancelled due to lack of stakeholder participation.

We will continue to share MIACCA industry related concerns and issues with the group at the next meeting. One important agenda item that we will be asking to be added for the next meeting, in addition to the statewide permit, is the importance of having an appeals process for the Board of Boiler rules. We have already started this process by providing public comment at the April 6, 2020 Board of Boiler Rules meeting for the board to determine how they would like to see the appeals process handled themselves and add it to their next meetings agenda. MIACCA will attend the July 27th meeting and we will also bring our agenda item request to the attention of LARA Director Hawks and encourage her to have the Board of Boiler Rules discuss this at the next meeting. It is important for them to have an appeals process that contractors can pursue, internally, without the expense of court fees.

MIACCA plans to strategize with the group on ways to promote the skilled trades to middle and high school students. As we continue to see a decrease in workers in the industry, we need to explore what state resources are available to help promote interest to students,

The next STRA roundtable meeting is scheduled for September 16th. If you have any discussion topics you would like us to discuss, please send them to [mjdsmith@miacca.org](mailto:mjdsmith@miacca.org).

## **2020 Utility Annual VAPS Reports**

Consumers Energy has submitted their 2020 VAPS annual reports to the Michigan Public Service Commission. Visit the MIACCA [Code of Conduct Page](#). Consumers Energy ASP gross sales amount for its breakdown insurance \$78,883,877 and the total amount of "Cost of Goods Sold" "Material & labor (including labor overheads)" \$26,590,500; which roughly represents the amount of repair business that regular HVAC contractors did not do in 2020.

The reports were due on April 30th and are now coming available. As more reports are obtained by MIACCA, we will post them on our page. Remember, this is one of MIACCA's initiatives to have the reports turned into the Michigan Public Service Commission and we are the only ones who have the reports online for your reference. This is an accomplishment we are proud of as we important to share the impact of the program, to our industry, with our members.



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

Every day, we rely on electricity to power our homes and offices. However, it is important to always be safe around electric appliances, equipment, and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it's a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss.

Here are some safety tips:

Indoors:

- Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- Remember extension cords are intended to be temporary; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- Keep your home's electrical system in good repair. Contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have flickering lights, sparks, non-functioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

Outdoors:

- Never touch downed power lines!
- Always call your local utility or 911 if you see lines down.
- Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Know what's below before you dig. At least 3 days before starting any digging or excavating project, call 811, the [National One Call Center](#), to have underground utility lines, pipes, and cables marked for free.
- Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment

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## Practical HVAC - Beyond the Box Diagnostics

ACCA is proud to present our new in-person course, [Practical HVAC - Beyond the Box Diagnostics](#). This course provides a fundamental turning point for your Service Technicians, Installers, Sales Advisors, Production Managers, and Service Managers to transition to an improved and consistent performance level. This training encourages a higher level of service, reducing liabilities, increasing knowledge, and ramping-up sales opportunities. **Anyone can sell another box, but this is for the team members ready for the next level.**

Students will learn how to test and design ducting the correct way while dealing with real-world installations how we find them. Students will gain a core understanding of the fundamentals of heating and air conditioning.

This practical problem-solving approach arms students with the very best practices to increase technician competence. ACCA's technical training delivers proven best practices with industry-accepted techniques that reinforce the science in HVACR.

ACCA has the following upcoming class:

- [Indianapolis, IN - May 18-20, 2021 8AM-5PM EDT](#)

This course costs \$1,000 for ACCA members and \$1,200 for non-members. You can learn more about the course on our [website](#).

*If you would like to schedule a private training for your company, please contact us at [training@acca.org](mailto:training@acca.org) for more information.*

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



RISK MANAGEMENT CORNER

### When Disaster Strikes Your Electrical Systems

Electricity is vital to our world and businesses, and our reliance on electrical systems creates a risk. Could you continue operating your business without electricity? Power outages in Texas due to cold weather earlier this year show that natural disasters can strike anywhere, and at any time – and often have ramifications to critical infrastructure, such as power grids.

disasters can strike anywhere, and at any time – and often have ramifications with critical infrastructure, such as power grids and gas lines.

The many types of electrical equipment, and how often they are used, are things we often take for granted when they work as intended. Your business may rely on one or more of the following:

- Computer, phone, and other sensitive electronics systems
- Machinery, pumps, power tools
- Refrigeration systems
- Heating and air conditioning
- Overhead and display lighting
- Security doors or alarm systems

Should one of these systems or pieces of equipment lose its power source, it could not only interrupt daily work, it could be dangerous and expensive. Costs could stem from physical damage to the system, loss of business income, service interruption, clean up, temporary repairs, and spoilage of perishable goods.

Having an emergency preparedness and recovery plan in place can help your business weather the storm should the power go out. Your plan could include:

- A key employee responsible for coordinating post-outage recovery of electrical systems.
- A list of all business critical electrical systems at your business.
- Plans for mitigating the impact of short-term and long-term loss of electricity, such as moving to backup energy sources like generators.
- Policies regarding performing regular preventative maintenance on electrical equipment per manufacturer specifications. Inadequately maintained electrical systems are a leading cause of business interruption, poor energy efficiency, equipment wear-out, and breakdowns.
- A list of employees who are qualified to properly, safely, and effectively maintain and help recover electrical equipment.
- Contact information for your insurance provider who can respond to coverage and claims questions regarding systems breakdown incidents.
- Verification that your business has systems breakdown coverage for your line of work.

Severe weather conditions and the havoc they bring are becoming increasingly unpredictable, but having a plan in place to reduce the impact of electrical outages can help your business recover following a storm. Take action today before disaster strikes your electrical system.

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