



# MFC NEWS

*“Building Understanding”*

MFC will find out the truth about buildings and answer the hard questions.

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## About MFC News

Myles F. Corcoran and his Team would like to share the best of what we've learned over the years about well constructed buildings and resolving construction disputes.

Please help us make this a “Construction Community” endeavor by sending us your feedback, comments, wisdom, and tips for future issues. Call 831-476-4502 or email us at: [mfnews@mfcbuild.com](mailto:mfnews@mfcbuild.com).

## MFC is HIRING!

MFC is expanding! We are enlarging and remodeling our office and hiring two new Consultants. MFC is looking to hire people with a background in building inspection and repair cost estimating. We offer a flexible work schedule, benefits and long-term career advancement. We have both full-time and part-time positions open. Please spread the word of this opportunity to your network and anyone you think might be interested.

Call Lisa Ellis 831-476-4502 or email [lisae@mfcbuild.com](mailto:lisae@mfcbuild.com)

## Quote of the Day

*“Educate, train, audit, re-educate, re-train, re-audit. The process is quite simple; however, it requires a builder’s commitment and discipline.”*

*-Myles F. Corcoran*

## Product Tip

Recently, many different manufacturers have been producing inexpensive and effective window pans. The market is flooded with multiple designs, all of which have benefits and liabilities. Several manufacturers whose designs we approve of are:

Water Out Flashings:

[www.wateroutflashing.com](http://www.wateroutflashing.com)

Protecto Sill:

[www.protectowrap.com/products/tapes\\_flash.php](http://www.protectowrap.com/products/tapes_flash.php)

Sure Sill: [www.suresill.com](http://www.suresill.com)

Jamsill Guard: [www.jamsill.com/pilot.asp](http://www.jamsill.com/pilot.asp)

It takes some extra work to order and properly install these products. In our opinion, this is well worth the added expense. Any of these products, properly installed, are a relatively inexpensive long term insurance policy against leaks and water intrusion. Many buildings with problems which we see in our office have to do with leaks through windows and doors, or their flashings.

We have samples of these products, and many others, in our office. Anyone interested is welcome to come by and take a look. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

MFC Staff

## FEATURED ARTICLE

### Construction Fires, Are you at Risk?

Most probably remember the construction fire at Santana Row in 2002, some may have also heard of the 5 alarm blaze at the construction site of a luxury apartment also in San Jose in January of this year. These construction fires highlight the importance and potential risk of having combustible materials on a construction site and knowing how they react together.

The May/June 2007 Custom Home magazine had an article entitled “Combustible Combination: A costly lesson in basic science” by Dennis A. Dixon. In it he relates how a fire started on the construction site of a new home, without any matches or spark, or anyone home to start it.

In fact, it started by spontaneous combustion caused by stain-soaked rags that were left in a plastic 5-gallon bucket. The flooring sub had collected all of the rags from the day’s work and placed them in an open bucket, and left the pail and its contents inside the house. Several rags were thrown on top of each other, and the weight created friction on the lower layers of cloth, which caused the volatile elements of the stain solvents to heat up and smolder. Since there was no lid placed on the bucket, there was an oxygen source present and the fumes ignited. It quickly spread after melting the bucket to the newly stained hardwood floor and along the newly stained trim materials on sawhorses near by.

Most people aren’t aware of spontaneous combustion and that most paint, stain, solvent, and cleaning materials are susceptible to it under the right conditions. To prevent risk when using these materials, all job rags should be placed in a sealed metal bucket, soaked with water, and placed in a non-combustible area.

-Art Childers and Allison Livingston, MFC Staff