

# THE INSPECTORS' JOURNAL

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## NEW POLICY ON CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CT HOME INSPECTOR LICENSEES

From the CT Home Inspection Licensing Board

(EFF. DATE; 08-04-11)

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the twenty hour per license cycle continuing education requirement in the Home Inspection Licensing Statute is to assure that licensees are maintaining a current knowledge base in the core subjects directly relating to home inspection. The regulations implementing the law also allow course work in some ancillary subject areas (e.g. wood destroying insects, environmental issues, etc.) to be counted toward the continuing education requirement.

There have been some instances where the majority of the continuing education credits submitted by an inspector for a license renewal have been in these ancillary areas.

### POLICY

It is henceforth the policy of the Home Inspection Licensing Board that at least 75 per cent of the continuing education hours (15 of the 20 hours) submitted to support license renewal be on courses related to the "core subjects" of home inspection. The core subjects are as enumerated in the current home inspection regulations - Sec. 20-491-23(c) #1 through #20

The balance of the 20 hours can be in other disciplines related to home inspection such as, but not limited to, those enumerated in #21 through #25 in that same section of the regulation.

For purposes of this calculation, the mandated three hour class in "home inspection legislation, licensing laws and regulations" shall be considered to be a "core" subject.

This policy change shall be effective as of August 4, 2011 and credits submitted in support of license renewal in 2013 will be evaluated using this new policy.

Licensees must take approved continuing education courses from approved providers as listed on [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp). Check with your provider.

### Table of Contents

Hardwood Flooring	4	FEMA-CT 2 articles	7	FEMA-When the FEMA Inspector...	9
Our Hero	10	CPSC - Dehumidifier fires	12	CPSC & HUD -Notice	15
EPA-Asbestos Training Scam	18	CT-DRS Electric Generation Tax	20	Web Site of the Month	22
EPA - Stop the runaway Regs Train	22	Membership info	23	Contact Info	24

The Home Inspection Licensing Board shall not approve offerings in mechanical office and business skills such as typing, speed-reading, memory development, personal motivation, salesmanship, sales psychology, sales promotions or other meetings held in conjunction with the general business of a home inspector.

## Content Chart

15 Hours shall be with the following generally acceptable courses:

- (1) Laws and regulations pertaining to the home inspection licensing profession;
- (2) structural systems;
- (3) foundations;
- (4) interior walls, doors, ceilings and floors;
- (5) exterior walls and doors, windows and door glazing;
- (6) fireplace and chimney;
- (7) roof, roof structure and attic;
- (8) porches and decks;
- (9) mechanical systems (heating, cooling and solar work);
- (10) inspection guidelines for appliances;
- (11) inspection guidelines for cooling systems other than evaporative coolers;
- (12) inspection guidelines for evaporative coolers; (13) inspection guidelines for heating systems;
- (14) inspection guidelines for ducts, vents (including dryer vents) and flues;
- (15) plumbing systems (drain, waste, vent, water and gas);
- (16) inspection guidelines for plumbing systems;
- (17) electrical systems (for heat, light, power and other purposes);
- (18) telecommunications, data, low voltage systems;
- (19) service entrance and panels;
- (20) branch circuits, connected devices and fixtures;

5 Hours can be in other disciplines related to home inspection such as:

- (21) home inspection documents, forms, contracts and warranties;
- (22) water supply (drilled wells/community water supplies);
- (23) fire protection sprinkler systems;
- (24) rodents, pests and insects; and
- (25) environmental contaminants, such as radon, asbestos, lead paint, or lead solder, and other related courses which may be acceptable to the Home Inspection Licensing Board.

Editor note: There is no language in the home inspection rules & regulations that states “core” inspection topics.

Sec. 20-491-23. Course content:

(b) The home inspector shall take courses consisting of at least twenty continuing education hours in each two year continuing education period. For each two year continuing education period, the following course shall be mandated: One course consisting of at least three classroom hours in current home inspection legislation, licensing laws and regulations.

(c) The Home Inspection Licensing Board shall not approve offerings in mechanical office and business skills such as typing, speed-reading, memory development, personal motivation, salesmanship, sales psychology, sales promotions or other meetings held in conjunction with the general business of a home inspector. Generally acceptable courses may include, but shall not be limited to:.

- (10) inspection guidelines for appliances;
- (18) telecommunications, data, low voltage systems;
- (23) fire protection sprinkler systems;
- (24) rodents, pests and insects; and
- (25) environmental contaminants, such as radon, asbestos, lead paint, or lead solder, and other related courses which may be acceptable to the Home Inspection Licensing Board.

This list is from the official Rules & Regulations for Home Inspectors CEs.

- It does not differentiate core or ancillary areas.
- There is no limitation to the amount of hours any 1 subject may contain.
- Also the fact that the established policy for 10 years has set precedent,
- Only 1 audit has ever been conducted by the DCP and no mention of a problem has ever been discussed
- Any Rules and/or Regulation change must be put thru the 23 step process involving the administration & legislature of the State.

Previous clarifications & rule changes in 2004 & 2006 went thru the 23 step process. Why not now???

# Inadequate Inspections Lead to a New World of Education

By Selva Lee Tucker

June/July 2011

There is a small group of inspectors, installers, manufacturers and retailers who love the flooring business. We love to learn. Years ago, I was feeling inadequate as an inspector. I hated that feeling of not being able to explain to my clients what I was seeing. I felt like a con man each time I cashed a check, knowing my report was not up to my standards, because I just did not know.

Why did one wood floor cup and another did not? Why did this wood check, but, in another room, the wood that had been installed much earlier didn't? Why is there wood flooring gapping near Charleston, S.C.? Gaps? In Charleston? Unheard of, but I was seeing those gaps and many more issues that led me to feel I needed much more knowledge to be a good inspector.

Inspectors, as a group, usually fall into two categories: those who already know it all (inject sarcasm) and those who openly admit they do not. I do not know it all. Inspectors, have you ever written a report to find out later, being insufferably embarrassed, you were so wrong that even the "other side" felt sorry and embarrassed for you? If you answer no, you are in denial. If yes, then you have been motivated to never let that happen to you again. I have had such life lessons. Let me explain.

I was commissioned by a manufacturer to inspect an engineered wood floor glued to a concrete slab. The issue was severe face-checking. I reported the industry line: based on my one time/date relative humidity (RH) measurement, it was low RH causing the problem. The consumers were upset. They were fine people.

So, I started thinking, and that is always a dangerous path for flooring inspectors. I went on the Internet. I found a site with documented weather history for that area. I saw that during that week I did the inspection, the RH levels changed each day. What's more, I found they also changed during the day. At midnight during that week of my inspection, RH was as high as 80%

but dropped to the 25% to 35% range during the day. Now I wanted to learn how this could happen, and how could checking be blamed on dry conditions when the RH levels changed so drastically during a 24 hour period? I had, by being ignorant, caused harm to good people. If it was not the environment, then, what was it.

To start my wood education beyond my work history as an installer, first I went to the old NOFMA/NWFA installation school. I learned a lot. I bought books, looked up research papers by wood scientists and, frankly, started pestering good wood people. Later, I attended inspector courses from both organizations, learning a lot. But still, I was not satisfied. The science was not there.

During the installation school, I met Howard Brickman. He freely gave his help teaching me how damn ignorant I had been. I am not one to be ashamed to say when I have been ignorant. Several months and many telephone calls later, Howard agreed to do a wood inspection course for inspectors. Howard's first class was in Dalton, Ga. My addiction now was beyond my control.

I started looking around for more people to teach me. It took being embarrassed again by someone: A wood laboratory had found I was wrong on a report, again. So, I learn, there are wood laboratories? That can test and examine wood? Then I learned about the Hodges Wood Laboratory at North Carolina State University. I toured the lab with Dr. Tony LaPasha and he

explained the testing work that he was conducting. Later I met Dr. Joe Denig and Dr. Phil Mitchell. The four of us sat down and had a roundtable discussion on some of the problems I had seen in the field. An idea began to formulate in my head about how to involve these professionals and those in similar fields to teach technical updates to wood flooring inspectors. The idea was spurred by my impression that they were excited about teaching wood technology and are impartial stakeholders in this area.

That's how the first wood flooring class taught and geared specifically to inspectors and other wood flooring professionals at a university began. The subject was Engineered Wood Science. Since then classes have included Wood Identification, taught by Dr. Elisabeth Wheeler and Dr. Alex Wiedenhoef (Dr. Wheeler is a retired professor from NCSU and Dr. Wiedenhoef is the chief Wood Identification Scientist at the USDA's Forest Products Laboratory); Advanced Engineered Wood Science for wood inspectors; and Wood Characteristics and Defects, with emphasis on moisture and wood, taught by Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Denig. The day before the Advanced class, there was an Introduction to Concrete Class taught by Dr. Roberto Nunez, who is a concrete engineer.

The goal of these classes is to increase the knowledge of the inspector in wood science and wood behavior so that the inspectors could do a better job of collecting data and interpreting the results. The classes were not designed to teach how to inspect.

Another exciting aspect of the classes is that it gives the participating inspectors time to interact with each other during class and after-hours. This scenario provides an opportunity to ask other inspectors their experience when faced with a variety of different problems. The faculty from NCSU seem to enjoy the classes as much as the flooring inspectors attending. The inspectors bring ideas and problems that stimulate the instructors and provide topics for future research.

The demand for seats in the classes has increased to the point that many people are being turned away. The next class will be in Charleston, S.C., in early fall; topics will be: new construction techniques, moisture control, building envelope science, and how to relate all those topics to flooring. Three of the professors will be teaching again, but this one is going to be special: My friend Howard Brickman will do a one-day, hands-on, data collection class to teach inspectors the correct method to gather data when inspecting wood flooring.

## This Wood Floor Can't Take the (Radiant) Heat

By **Keith Cudmore**

June/July 2011

### The Problem

Recently I made a visit to a home that had a problem with a European-style floating floor. The homeowners complained about some shrinking between boards and some movement in the floor. The problems sounded like fairly minor issues, likely the result of some small corner-cutting during installation.

### The Procedure

The floating floor had glued joints and was installed in an existing home in the Pacific Northwest over a hydronic radiant heating system—one that uses pipes filled with heated water to transmit heat. Although the system was used to heat several rooms, it was governed by a single, dial-type thermostat.

## The Cause

Although it had sounded like the problems were minor, in fact, the floor was a mess. In addition to the gapping and movement the homeowners had described, which was certainly in evidence, the entire surface of the floor was showing serious cupping at the edges of the boards, and a strange rippling pattern in the middle. Everything suggested some serious heat and humidity issues.

Using my infrared spot thermometer, I spot-checked the surface temperature of the floor in each room. The temperatures ranged from 75.7° to 92.9°F. Of seven areas tested, four were hotter than the 82°F maximum surface temperature specified. This also showed how unevenly the radiant heating system was operating.

Next I checked the moisture content of the flooring, which typically should be in the 8% to 10% range. It registered low on the moisture meter; I later did oven-dry tests revealing the average MC was a measly 4.22%, or about half what it should have been. This floor was cooked!

The excessive levels of heat had dried out the floor. As wood dries, it shrinks. In an engineered floor like this one, the hardwood wear layer shrinks more than the plywood core, which leads to cupping. In this particular product, the core was made of vertical-grain softwood. It also shrunk in response to the heat, but the shrinkage varied with the grain of the wood, resulting in that funny rippling effect on the surface of the floor. And the gapping issue? It seems the installer neglected to apply glue to some of the joints, so as soon as there was some stress on the floor, it just started to come apart in sections.

## How to Fix the Floor

Given the extent of the damage, there really wasn't a lot that could be done to salvage this floor, other than to use it as a cautionary tale.

## In the Future

This situation illustrated the two biggest sources of problems with hardwood and radiant heat: improper installation and improper operation.

For starters, I would have suggested putting in an updated digital thermometer (my preference is a quick-recovery thermostat, which helps minimize radical swings in temperature that can “shock” a wood floor). While older systems can't always be retrofitted into separately controlled “zones” like newer systems, at the very least the system should have been recalibrated to deliver more even heat distribution. The floor (or large areas of it, at least) was being heated well past the maximum allowable temperature. All radiant-heat approved wood floors have their own limit specified by the wood flooring manufacturer.

The bottom line is that, even when using wood floors approved for use over radiant heat, care has to be taken to ensure the heating system can be operated within the guidelines required by the floor's manufacturer, and that, after installation, it is.

*Keith Cudmore is technical services manager at Kent, Wash.-based Metropolitan Hardwood Floors and is an NWFACP Certified Inspector.*

Hardwood Floors Magazine 2011



# FEMA

## Federal Community Relations Teams Canvass Connecticut

Release Date: September 20, 2011

Release Number: 4023-007

### [» More Information on Connecticut Tropical Storm Irene](#)

WINDSOR, Conn. -- Community relations specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are going door-to-door to meet with Connecticut residents affected by severe weather Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 2011.

The teams are in neighborhoods affected by Tropical Storm Irene, providing information about available disaster assistance programs, including grants to help pay for temporary housing needs, minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. In addition to meeting with residents, community relations teams visit with faith-based groups, community organizations, non-profit agencies, business owners and houses of worship.

"We rely on our community relations specialists, not only to get the word out about disaster assistance, but they also talk to residents to find out if they have other disaster-related issues we may not be aware of," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Steve De Blasio.

When issues are identified, such as areas where there are language barriers or individuals with special needs, that information is shared with the appropriate specialists.

"The teams are continuing to remind residents affected by Tropical Storm Irene that they must register with FEMA to begin the disaster assistance process," said Reuben F. Bradford, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Apply for federal disaster assistance online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. Speech- and hearing-impaired individuals may call **TTY 1-800- 462-7585**. Multilingual operators staff the phone lines 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. local time, seven days a week.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585; or call 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS).

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

SBA disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Applications can also be downloaded from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or completed on-line at [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

WINDSOR, Conn. -- Community relations specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are going door-to-door to meet with Connecticut residents affected by severe weather Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 2011.

Haven't seen hide nor hair of anyone yet



### Connecticut Tops \$2 Million in Disaster Assistance

Release Date: September 16, 2011

Release Number: 4023-004

» [More Information on Connecticut Tropical Storm Irene](#)

» [2011 Region I News Releases](#)

**WINDSOR, Conn.** – As of today, more than \$2 million has already been approved for assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damages caused by Tropical Storm Irene in the State of Connecticut.

More than **3,600** Connecticut homeowners, renters and business owners have registered for assistance, since President Obama declared a federal disaster on Sept. 2.

To receive assistance you must first register with FEMA before the Nov. 3 deadline. After registering, FEMA provides applicants with a nine-digit registration number. Within a week, a FEMA inspector, who is the only other person with the nine-digit number, will make an appointment to visit a residence.

Register online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA/3362** or TTY **1-800-462-7585**. Phone lines are open seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. until further notice. You can also register by web enabled mobile device at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov).

Applicants should keep FEMA updated of personal information changes such as a change of address, new phone number or insurance settlement by calling **1-800-621-FEMA/3362** or TTY **1-800-462-7585**. In addition to calling, applicants are encouraged to visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) if they have questions about the status of their application.

The following includes FEMA disaster assistance statistics for Connecticut as of the close of business Sept. 15, 2011.

- **3,610** individuals and families have registered with FEMA for assistance. Individual Assistance includes two categories -- housing and other needs.
- More than **\$2,034,314** in housing funds has been approved. This money can be used for temporary housing as well as repair and replacement of permanent housing.
- Nearly **\$97,357** in other needs funding was approved. This includes money for necessities such as clothing and household items, disaster-related medical and dental costs, car repairs that are related to the disaster, as well as for moving and storage expenses.
- FEMA inspectors made **1,527** home inspections.
- **649** visits were made to the Disaster Recovery Centers.
- More than **2,798** applications for Small Business Administration (SBA) loans have been received.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans to renters, homeowners and businesses of all sizes.

FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585; or call 800-621-3362 if using 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS).

FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for medical and dental expenses and funeral expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

SBA disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Applications can also be downloaded from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or completed on-line at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.



### What to Expect When a FEMA Housing Inspector Calls

Release Date: September 15, 2011

Release Number: 4026-009

[» More Information on New Hampshire Tropical Storm Irene](#) [» 2011 Region I News Releases](#)

CONCORD, N.H. – As residents recover from the flooding and devastation in New Hampshire caused by Tropical Storm Irene, many will be visited by a housing inspector working for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Inspectors will contact residents who have registered with FEMA for Individual Assistance to make an appointment to inspect the damaged property.

"It's important that people provide us with a telephone number where they can be reached easily so that our inspectors can make those appointments," said Albie Lewis, federal coordinating officer. "If the number changes, they need to call back to our helpline and update their information."

Inspectors will make three attempts, on separate days, to contact the registrant before withdrawing the inspection. If residents haven't received a call from an inspector within two weeks of registering, they should call the same number, 1-800-621-3362 to reach the helpline to check on their case.

Inspectors are thoroughly trained and follow a computerized questionnaire to assure that inspections are consistent. A random sample of the homes will be re-inspected by supervisors as a quality-control measure.

Inspectors carry identification cards and will readily verify their credentials. They will expect applicants to be able to verify their identity and to provide proof of ownership of the property, such as a real estate deed or property tax receipt.

Residents will be asked if their property is insured. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance coverage. But registered applicants have up to a year to seek a FEMA grant if insurance does not cover all of their loss.

Loss estimates the inspectors make are based on current costs in the area they are inspecting and the observed extent of damage.

Register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-3362. Dial the same number to reach the FEMA Helpline. If you use a TTY, call 1-800-462-7585 directly. If you use 711-Relay or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362 or online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

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## A Living Marine Hero



# Medal of Honor Recipient Dakota Meyer Insists He is Not a Hero

**The ex-marine tells ABC's Bob Woodruff he feels guilty he survived.**

**09/14/2011**

At a White House ceremony later today, Dakota Meyer will become the first living Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for heroism in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Meyer becomes the tenth recipient of the nation's highest award for valor in those conflicts; all but two have been presented posthumously. Army soldiers Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta and Sgt. First Class Leroy Petry are the only other living recipients of the award.

The former Marine sergeant, Meyer insists he is not a hero for repeatedly rushing into heavy enemy fire in an attempt to rescue four missing U.S. service members pinned down in an intense hours-long ambush in eastern Afghanistan. On September 8, 2009, Meyer was one of 13 American military trainers embedded with a unit of 80 Afghan soldiers headed for a routine meeting with local elders in the village of Ganjgal, located in a valley along the border with Pakistan.

Four trainers at the front of the U.S.-Afghan force were immediately trapped by the heavy enemy fire believed to be coming from as many as 150 Taliban fighters.

Positioned in a rear position when the ambush began, Meyer and other members of his unit used a Humvee to rush into the kill zone to try and rescue the four trapped at the head of their column.

Using the Humvee, Meyer rescued 12 Afghan soldiers in his first three attempts to reach the four trapped trainers. He finally broke through to their position on the fourth attempt only to find they had been killed in the fighting. Meyer then retrieved their remains.

Killed in the fighting were Marine 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, Marine Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson, and Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton, as well as eight Afghan soldiers and an interpreter.

In a measure of the heroism displayed by U.S. forces that day, two of Meyer's fellow Marines, Capt. Ademola Fabayo and Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez-Chavez, have each received the Navy Cross, the service's second-highest award for valor.

In an interview with ABC's Bob Woodruff airing tonight on ABC's "World News with Diane Sawyer," Meyer says that if he was faced with the same situation again, "I would do it a hundred times" though he would change only one thing: "I wish I could have kept them alive."

He insists he is not a hero, but was only doing "what Marines do...I'm the furthest thing from a hero," he says, "if this is what it feels like to be a hero you can have it." He adds, "What gives me the right to be standing here today and not their kids? I feel like I failed them and I failed their families."

Meyer wonders if the outcome might have been different if "I had just done it on the first time on my instinct, maybe I could of got in there, made a difference, but like I said, you can 'what if it' to the max."

He says he wasn't counting how many lives he saved that day in Ganjgal. "I couldn't tell you," he says. "I see numbers come out all the time, there, three or four sets of numbers, but I don't think numbers really matter."

Meyer says that when he and Rodriguez-Chavez went into the valley that day, "I wasn't really thinking I could die...I can't speak for him, but I know, I never thought I was going to come out."

A major motivator for his repeated attempts that day was an early radio transmission from the four that led him to believe they were still alive pinned down in a house "waiting for us to get them out."

"The only thing I was focused on was getting those guys out of there," says Meyer.

But when he reached them, “I knew they were dead, but you just want to wish there is something, something still going that you can hopefully try to at least save one of them.”

Meyer wears bracelets with the names of the four Americans killed in Ganjgal that day and feels some guilt that he survived the battle. “I guess what’s stuck in my mind is you either get guys out alive or you die trying, if you didn’t die trying, you didn’t try hard enough.”

Now living on his grandparents’ farm in rural Kentucky, Meyer says that he would return to active duty “in a heartbeat” if he could be promised a return to combat “fighting with Marines.”

Meyer says that he wants the award, but that he’s not receiving the medal just for himself, but on behalf of all Marines.



## NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Communications

Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2011

Release #11-324

**Firm's Recall Hotline: (877) 220-0479**

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

LG Media Contact: (847) 941-8181

### **Home Fires Prompt Dehumidifier Recall Reannouncement from LG Electronics**

***More Than One Million Dollars in Property Damage Linked to Goldstar and Comfort-Aire Dehumidifiers***

WASHINGTON, D.C. - LG Electronics Tianjin Appliance Co., in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), is urging consumers to check if they have recalled Goldstar or Comfort-Aire dehumidifiers. The firm is re-announcing the recall of about 98,000 of the dangerous dehumidifiers that pose a serious fire and burn hazard, and are believed to be responsible for more than one million dollars in property damage.

The power connector for the dehumidifier’s compressor can short circuit, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers and their property.

The dehumidifiers were first recalled in [December 2009](#) following eleven incidents, including four significant fires. Since that time, the company has received sixteen additional incident reports of arcing, smoke and fire associated with the dehumidifiers, including nine significant fires.

**This fire at a home in Valparaiso, Ind. involved a recalled Goldstar dehumidifier and resulted in \$192,000 in damage.**



No injuries have been reported. Fires are reported to have caused more than \$1 million in property damage including:

- \$500,000 in damage to a home in Gibsonia, Pa.
- \$200,000 in damage to a home in New Brighton, Minn.
- \$183,000 in damage to a home in Hudson, Mass.
- \$192,000 in damage to a home in Valparaiso, Ind.
- \$139,000 in damage to a home in Salem, Ohio
- \$129,000 in damage to a home in Brielle, N.J.
- \$ 95,000 in damage to a home in Philadelphia, Pa.

Because of the severity of the risks, CPSC and LG Electronics are concerned with the lack of consumer response to the recall. Only two percent of the 98,000 consumers who purchased these units have received a free repair, which means that consumers and their property remain at serious risk.

Anyone who has the recalled dehumidifiers is strongly encouraged to immediately stop using them, unplug them, and contact LG Electronics for the free repair.

The recall involves the 30 pint portable dehumidifiers sold under the Goldstar and Comfort-Aire brands. The dehumidifiers are white with a red shut-off button, controls for fan speed and humidity control, and a front-loading

water bucket. “Goldstar” or “Comfort-Aire” is printed on the front. Model and serial number ranges included in this recall are listed in the table below. The model and serial numbers are located on the interior of the dehumidifier, and can be seen when the water bucket is removed.

Brand	Model No.	Serial Number Range	Sold at
Goldstar	GHD30Y7	611TAxx00001 through 08400 611TAxx08401 through 40600 612TAxx00001 through 20400 612TAxx21001 through 30600	Home Depot
Goldstar	DH305Y7	612TAxx00001 through 00600 701TAxx00001 through 16800 702TAxx00001 through 03000	Walmart
Comfort-Aire	BHD-301-C	611TA000001 through 001697 612TA000001 through 004200 701TA000001 through 000578 710TA000001 through 000599	Various retailers, including Ace Hardware, Do It Best and Orgill Inc.

The recalled dehumidifiers were sold at The Home Depot, Walmart, Ace Hardware, Do It Best, Orgill Inc., and other retailers nationwide from January 2007 through June 2008 for between \$140 and \$150. They were manufactured in China. For additional information about the recall and for the location of an authorized service center for the repair, contact LG toll free at (877) 220-0479 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, and between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. CT on Saturday, or visit the firm’s website at [www.30pintdehumidifierrecall.com](http://www.30pintdehumidifierrecall.com)



**Goldstar**

**Goldstar**

**Comfort-Aire**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about your experience with the product on [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov)

CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of the thousands of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer

product incidents cost the nation more than \$900 billion annually. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

Under federal law, it is illegal to attempt to sell or resell this or any other recalled product.



## NEWS from CPSC and HUD



U.S. Consumer Product  
Safety Commission  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

U.S. Dept. of Housing  
and Urban Development  
[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2011  
Release #11-327

**CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772**  
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908  
HUD Media Contact: (202) 708-0685

### **CPSC Completes Final Studies to Help Affected Homeowners Remediate Problem Drywall**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today released updated [remediation](#) (pdf) guidance for homeowners with problem drywall. The guidance calls for the replacement of all: problem drywall; smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms; electrical distribution components, including receptacles, switches and circuit breakers, but not necessarily wiring; and fusible-type fire sprinkler heads.

The updated remediation guidance is based on studies just completed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on potential long term corrosion effects of problem drywall on select [gas components](#) (pdf), [fire sprinkler heads](#) (pdf) and [smoke alarms](#) (pdf).

CPSC and HUD staffs believe these final studies that resulted in an update of the remediation guidance, along with previously-issued [identification guidance](#) (pdf), will enable homeowners to comprehensively remediate those homes containing problem drywall with potentially lower costs than by following the previous remediation guidance.

#### **Key Findings**

The key finding is that none of the studies performed at NIST on smoke alarms, fire sprinkler heads, or gas service piping found corrosion associated with problem drywall that provided evidence of a substantial product safety hazard, as defined by the Consumer Product Safety Act. Corrosion of gas service piping was uniform and minimal compared to

the thickness of pipes. Some smoke alarms and fire sprinkler heads showed small changes in performance due to accelerated corrosion, but these changes were generally within accepted industry standards.

As a result, CPSC and HUD no longer recommend the removal of gas service piping in homes with problem drywall. This change may reduce the cost of remediation for many homes. In addition, the agencies no longer recommend that glass bulb fire sprinkler heads be replaced in homes. However, the agencies recommend that both glass bulb sprinkler heads and gas distribution piping in affected homes be inspected and tested as part of the remediation to make sure they are working properly; any test failures should be corrected according to all applicable building codes.

The agencies do recommend the replacement of all fusible-type fire sprinkler heads, because one fusible-type sprinkler head sample that had been exposed to accelerated corrosion did not activate when tested. The agencies note that this type of sprinkler head is generally found in commercial, rather than residential, applications and that the sole failure could not be causally linked to the problem drywall.

In addition, CPSC staff continues to recommend that homeowners replace smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms as part of remediation.

### **Exhaustive Investigation**

CPSC's investigation into problem drywall to help affected homeowners began in early 2009 and involved significant agency resources. CPSC's investigation of problem drywall has been driven by sound science and has involved HUD, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as members of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Problem Drywall.

CPSC and HUD met with deeply-impacted homeowners, responded to correspondence, and kept members of Congress informed about our progress during this time period.

CPSC developed contracts to research and test problem drywall, visited Chinese mines and manufacturers, hosted a public website to keep the public informed about new developments, and devoted thousands of staff hours and millions of dollars to these activities.

As part of the effort to determine if there were any health or safety effects associated with problem drywall, the agency contracted with several highly-respected technical organizations, including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Environmental Health & Engineering Inc. (EH&E), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), NIST, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

LBNL used specially-built chambers to measure chemical emissions from drywall samples. In the second phase of its work, which is being released today, [LBNL](#) (pdf) evaluated the effects of different temperature and humidity conditions, as well as the effects of time and coatings of paint or plaster, on the emissions. A [prior LBNL](#) (pdf) study found considerably higher hydrogen sulfide emission rates from some, but not all, Chinese drywall samples compared to North American samples. The current LBNL study found that increases in temperature and humidity corresponded with increased emission rates of the most reactive sulfur gases, that emissions were significantly reduced over time (compared with its prior testing), and that coating the problem drywall samples did not result in differences in emissions compared to uncoated samples.

EH&E conducted CPSC's [51-home study](#) (pdf) on emissions and corrosion in problem drywall homes. The studies identified elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide in problem drywall homes. The studies also showed a strong association between the presence of hydrogen sulfide and metal corrosion in the problem drywall homes.

SNL exposed smoke alarms, electrical components, gas piping, and sprinkler heads to concentrated levels of gases representative of problem drywall emissions, to simulate decades of exposure. SNL analyzed the effects of corrosion on the electrical components and found no degradation in performance and no acute safety events during testing.

NIST analyzed the type and depth of corrosion resulting from the simulated aging, as well as other samples taken from homes with problem drywall, and evaluated whether the corrosion would impact the proper functioning of smoke alarms, gas distribution piping, and fire sprinklers.

Another study being released today, that was conducted by the [USGS](#) (pdf), found no evidence of microbiological activity or a microbiological source of sulfur-gas emissions from gypsum rock or problem drywall, including samples taken from affected homes.

As part of the investigation, CPSC requested that CDC consider undertaking a comprehensive study of any possible long-term health effects. In February 2011, CDC indicated that the best scientific evidence available at that time did not support undertaking a long-term health study.

## **Concluding Our Investigation**

To date, CPSC has received 3,905 reports from residents of 42 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico, who believe their health symptoms or the corrosion of certain metal components in their homes are related to problem drywall. CPSC believes there may be as many as 6,300 U.S. homes with problem drywall.

CPSC has been focused on providing answers and guidance for homeowners based on its scientific work, and other federal agencies have worked to provide relief to homeowners. For example, based on information provided by CPSC, the [IRS](#) allows certain impacted taxpayers whose homes meet the CPSC's problem drywall identification criteria to treat damages from corrosive drywall as a casualty loss, and provides a "safe harbor" formula for determining the amount of the loss. In addition, [HUD](#) advised its Federal Housing Administration-approved mortgage lenders that they may offer forbearance for borrowers confronted with the sudden effects of damaging drywall in their homes.

Going forward, CPSC staff continues to work with voluntary standards organizations to develop improved standards for drywall to prevent this type of problem from reemerging. The standard setting body ASTM International Inc. is also moving to require that all drywall sheets are marked with the manufacturer's name or a unique identification code, the manufacture date, and the source materials.

As the federal investigation into problem drywall concludes, CPSC staff believes that the extensive research and testing have been successful in defining the scope of the problem drywall issue, in producing identification and remediation protocols, and in providing homeowners with all the assistance possible within the agency's jurisdiction and appropriated funds authority. The agency will continue to provide information to and work with members of Congress and agency partners to support policy options that may be beneficial to impacted homeowners.

For additional findings from the Interagency Drywall Task Force's investigation, visit [www.DrywallResponse.gov](http://www.DrywallResponse.gov)---

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consumer products—such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals—contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, go online to: [SaferProducts.gov](http://SaferProducts.gov), call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 or teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270 for the hearing impaired. Consumers can obtain this news release and product safety information at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). To join a free e-mail subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes: utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and [espanol.hud.gov](http://espanol.hud.gov). You can also follow HUD on twitter @HUDnews, on facebook at [www.facebook.com/HUD](http://www.facebook.com/HUD), or sign up for news alerts on HUD's News Listserv.



**CONTACT:**

Stacy Kika (News Media only)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 13, 2011

**Former EPA Fugitive Sentenced to More than Seven Years in Prison for Asbestos Training Scam**

**WASHINGTON** – The former owner of the country's largest asbestos abatement training school was sentenced to prison today, after having fled the United States after her trial in November 2008. U.S. District Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton sentenced Albania Deleon, 41, formerly of Andover, Mass., to 87 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. She was also ordered to pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service and \$369,015 to AIM Mutual Insurance Company. No level of exposure to asbestos is safe, so removal by untrained workers, performed without the necessary safeguards, threatens the health of those workers and the public.

“Today's sentence marks the final chapter in bringing Albania Deleon to justice,” said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Committing environmental crimes to make a profit that put workers and our communities at risk carry serious consequences.”

“Today, justice was served, and Albania Deleon has finally faced the consequences of her crimes. I hope that this

sentence sends a strong message to anyone who might contemplate fleeing to avoid punishment, that we do not give up on fugitives, and we will take all necessary means and resources to apprehend and prosecute them,” said United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz.

In November 2008, following a three-week trial, Deleon was convicted of a broad range of charges including that she sold training certificates to thousands of illegal aliens who had not taken the mandatory training course. Deleon then placed these unqualified individuals in temporary employment positions as certified asbestos abatement workers in public buildings throughout Massachusetts and New England. Deleon was also convicted of encouraging illegal aliens

to reside in the United States, making false statements about matters within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); procuring false payroll tax returns, and mail fraud.

From approximately 2001 to 2006, Deleon owned and operated Environmental Compliance Training (ECT), a certified asbestos training school located in Methuen. ECT normally offered training courses on a weekly basis at its Methuen offices, however, many of the recipients of the certificates never took the required course. Instead, with Deleon’s knowledge and approval, ECT’s office employees issued certificates of course completion to thousands of individuals who did not take the course. These individuals filed the certificates with the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety in order to be authorized to work in the asbestos removal industry. Many of the recipients were illegal aliens who wished to skip the four-daylong course so that they would not forego a week’s pay.

Since ECT’s training course records were subject to inspection, Deleon sought to cover up ECT’s practice of issuing certificates to untrained applicants by having the applicants sign final examination answer sheets that already had been completed and graded, which she maintained in ECT’s files. Based on the evidence at trial and information supplied by the Division of Occupational Safety, ECT issued training certificates to over 2,000 untrained individuals.

Deleon is the fifth environmental criminal captured since the EPA fugitive website was launched in December 2008.

U.S. Attorney Ortiz; Michael E. Hubbard, Special Agent in Charge of EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in Boston; Bruce M. Foucart, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; William Offord, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation; Scott Antolik, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations – Boston Field Division; James Ennis, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service; John Gibbons, United States Marshall for the District of Massachusetts; Anthony DiPaolo, Chief of Investigations for the Massachusetts Insurance Fraud Bureau; and Heather E. Rowe, Acting Commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety made the announcement today.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lori Holik, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Mitchell of Ortiz’s Economic Crimes Unit and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter W. Kenyon, an EPA regional criminal enforcement attorney.

More information on EPA’s fugitives list: <http://www.epa.gov/fugitives/index.html>

Press release on Oct. 30, 2010 capture of Deleon:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceec8525735900400c27/6c9fd50098b49b31852577cf004b8ca6!OpenDocument>



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES**

25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032

**SN 2011(11)**

## **2011 Legislation Imposing an Electric Generation Tax**

**Purpose:** This Special Notice describes the electric generation tax enacted during the 2011 session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

**Effective Date:** Effective for calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2011 and prior to July 1, 2013.

**Statutory Authority:** 2011 Conn. Pub. Acts 6, §104; 2011 Conn. Pub. Acts 61, §45; 2011 Conn. Pub. Acts 233, §17.

**Definitions:** As used in this Special Notice:

- **Person** means any individual, partnership, company, limited liability company, public or private corporation, society, association, trustee, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary or custodian.
- **Person subject to tax** means a person providing electric generation services and uploading electricity generated at such person's electric generation facility in this state to the regional bulk power grid. For purposes of this special notice, person subject to the tax may also be referred to as the taxpayer.
- **Electric generation services** means electric energy, electric capacity, or generation-related services.
- **Electric generation facility** means a facility where a person subject to tax provides electric generation services.
- **Alternative energy system** means design systems, equipment or materials which utilize as their energy source solar, wind, water, or biomass energy in providing space heating or cooling, water heating, or generation of electricity, but shall not include wood burning stoves.
- **Resources recovery facility** means a facility utilizing processes aimed at reclaiming the material or energy from solid wastes.
- **Customer-side distributed resources** means the generation of electricity from a unit with a rating of not more than 65 megawatts on the premises of a retail end user within the transmission and distribution system including, but not limited to, fuel cells, photovoltaic systems, or small wind turbines.

**Persons Subject to the Electric Generation Tax:** Each person subject to tax is required to pay the electric generation tax on a quarterly basis starting with the calendar quarter beginning on or after July 1, 2011. The electric generation tax shall not apply to any net kilowatt hours of electricity generated at an electric generation facility in this state exclusively through the use of fuel cells or an alternative energy system, generated at a resources recovery facility, or generated at customer-side distributed resources.

**Computation of Electric Generation Tax Liability:** The electric generation tax due for a calendar quarter is the product of \$0.0025 multiplied by the net kilowatt hours of electricity generated by the taxpayer at its electric generation

facility in Connecticut and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid. The net kilowatt hours of electricity generated by a taxpayer at its electric generation facility in Connecticut and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid will be calculated by summing the hourly amounts of net kilowatt hours reported by the taxpayer to the regional bulk power grid during the calendar quarter. The amount of net kilowatt hours of electricity generated by the taxpayer at its electric generation facility in Connecticut and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid for a calendar quarter cannot be less than zero.

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**Registration of Persons Subject to the Electric Generation Tax with the Department of Revenue Services:** Every person subject to tax identified by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS), if not already assigned a Connecticut

Tax Registration Number, will be assigned a Connecticut Tax Registration Number. If already assigned a Connecticut Tax Registration number, the taxpayer will use that number to electronically file its return.

Any person subject to tax that is not assigned a Connecticut Tax Registration Number must complete **Form REG-1, Business Tax Registration Application**, and Addendum E.

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**Due Date of Return and Payment:** Payment of the electric generation tax along with **Form EGT-104, Electric Generation Tax Return**, are due on or before the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter. Every taxpayer is required to electronically file its Form EGT-104. In addition, all payments of electric generation tax must be made by electronic means.

Use the **Taxpayer Service Center (TSC)** at [www.ct.gov/TSC](http://www.ct.gov/TSC) to electronically file Form EGT-104 and pay the electric generation tax. There is no paper Form EGT-104.

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**Amended Returns:** If a taxpayer understates or overstates the net kilowatt hours of electricity generated at its electric generation facility in Connecticut and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid, the taxpayer is required to file an amended Form EGT-104. The Amended Form EGT-104 must be filed using the **TSC**. If the return reports an underpayment, payment of additional electric generation tax must be made using the **TSC**.

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**Calculating Net Kilowatt Hours on an Entity Basis:** If an entity operates multiple electric generation facilities in Connecticut then such entity shall calculate its total net kilowatt hours of electricity generated and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid for all locations and shall file a single Form EGT-104. If multiple entities operate a single electric generation facility then each entity shall separately calculate its net kilowatt hours of electricity generated and uploaded to the regional bulk power grid and shall file a separate Form EGT-104.

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**Effect on Other Documents:** None affected.

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**Effect of This Document:** A Special Notice announces a new policy or practice in response to changes in state or federal laws or regulations or to judicial decisions. A Special Notice indicates an informal interpretation of Connecticut tax law by DRS.

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**For Further Information:** Call DRS during business hours, Monday through Friday:

- **1-800-382-9463** (Connecticut calls outside the Greater Hartford calling area only); **or**
- **860-297-5962** (from anywhere).

**TTY, TDD, and Text Telephone users only** may transmit inquiries anytime by calling 860-297-4911.

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**Paperless Filing/Payment Methods (fast, easy, free, and confidential):**

Taxpayers must use the **TSC** to file Form EGT-104 and make electric generation tax payments online.

**DRS E-Alerts Service:** Get connected to the latest news from DRS. Receive notification by email of changes to legislation, policies, and procedures.

**DRS E-Alerts** provide information for employer's withholding tax, News – Press Releases, and Top 100 Delinquency List. Visit the DRS website at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS) and select e-alerts from the left navigation bar.

SN 2011(11)

Electric Generation Tax

Issued: 09/06/2011

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## Web Site of the Month

<http://www.epa.gov/gogreen/>

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**FRIENDS** of the  
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Slowing the EPA's Regulatory Runaway Train

*Tell Congress to Support the TRAIN Act*

Did you know that, according to [Investor's Business Daily](#), more people are employed to write government regulations than employees for McDonalds, Ford, Disney and Boeing *combined*?

There's no question that America's small businesses have been overwhelmed by the resulting avalanche of government regulations and red tape. But no agency can compete with the deluge of regulations coming from EPA, which has spent the past 30 months issuing a wide array of large, expensive regulations that affect virtually every facet of the U.S. economy, from homeowners, hospitals and farmers to small businesses and manufacturers.

**STOP RUNAWAY  
REGULATIONS**

Email your members of Congress now and  
encourage their support of the TRAIN Act.



During that time, the EPA's overregulation has derailed prosperity by threatening to cost businesses millions of jobs and dollars.

Even worse, the people writing these regulations are paying little to no attention to the drastic negative impact they're having on American employers ... and America's economic recovery.

**That's where the TRAIN Act comes in.**

The "Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act" (TRAIN) would help slow EPA's runaway regulatory train by placing a moratorium on several of the EPA's most dangerous regulations until a full study on their impact on economic competitiveness is completed,

Imagine that: *actually assessing the economic impact of regulations before they can do harm.*

Sounds like a common sense measure to us. **[Email your members of Congress now and encourage their support of the TRAIN Act.](#)**

Let's stop the runaway regulatory train and instead focus on helping to get America's economic engine turning again.

Sincerely,



Bill Miller  
Senior Vice President and National Political Director  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

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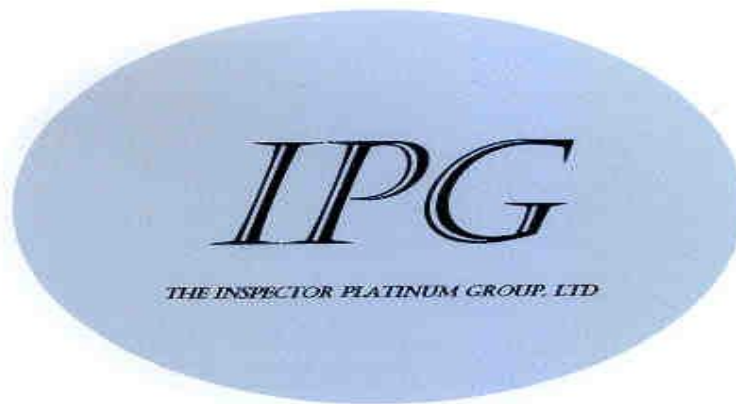
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