



NEWSLETTER • DECEMBER 2021

A Message from Your Affiliate President



The last word (in 2021) on the fate of gas fireplaces; and it's good.

Dear Colleagues,
See the latest update for our affiliate below. Clearly, there is much opportunity for work and sales for our stores. Do we need to shift our inventory and offerings? Certainly. Every industry does this. Nearly all our manufacturers are providing diverse products to satisfy consumer shifts.

In the meantime, there are LOTS of services to be booked. This is why we are creating our own service tech class that will be hands-on and available frequently in our region. The physical assembly of the learning units is happening right now for availability next spring.

The value of your membership will grow in 2022. Events and training will be near you, ideas for increased profitability, and insiders' news about regulatory issues so you know how to navigate are all assured.

Have a safe holiday and take the time you deserve to de-stress and be thankful.

Jay Hanson

California (and Nevada) Anti-Gas Efforts Continue...

Sometimes it is frustrating to be 'under the radar' as fireplaces often are, but

sometimes it's a good idea. Today, Monday, December 13th, as we write this, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has just completed a day-long workshop on "Decarbonizing Existing Buildings" and fireplaces were not mentioned. The focus of this discussion was on the various incentive programs which will be used to tempt Californians to replace their gas water heaters, furnaces, and clothes dryers, with Heat Pump units in the coming decade.

It is clear from the workshop that CARB is signaling they plan to take a more aggressive role in revisions of CalGreen, with a special focus on replacing gas cooking appliances, but again, no mention was made of fireplaces. But it is not clear just how big a role CARB can play in any code. They certainly were not effective in the recent adoption of the next Title 24 Energy Code, the 2022 code, which will become effective on January 1st, 2023. That code will require one of the two major appliances in new homes to be a heat pump: HVAC systems in the Southern Climate zone, and Water Heaters in the Northern zones. Nothing was said in this new code about cooking or fireplaces. While it is true that some builders may choose to avoid gas in some of these climate zones, it still allows custom homes, often built with Propane to pick their fuel, and we know what consumers will want.

The battle will begin soon for the next code, the 2025, and the Homebuilders have signaled that they are not willing to go to the mat for gas appliances in that code, but we'll see how the politics play out.

Meanwhile, according to Tom Paine, our special energy/code consultant from CONSOL, the real battle this year may be in the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), where enviro groups are arguing that gas utilities should not be allowed to give builders credits for gas connections. Again, this doesn't touch new homes with Propane, or existing homes.

Meanwhile, in Nevada, the PUC has begun to study the impact on consumers and businesses in the state of ending gas delivery. HPBA will file comments with the help of HPBA Pacific.

Meanwhile, at the Federal Level, the proposed package known as Build Back Better has a major extension of the Woodheater Tax Credit, but so far, it's not clear when, or if, this will pass the Senate. Once it passed and is signed, you can bet we'll be talking about it, but until then, the credit we have now is the only one that is certain.

[READ MORE ABOUT TAX CREDIT HERE](#)

Stay tuned, there is always something new.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

By John Crouch and Eric Adair
HPBA

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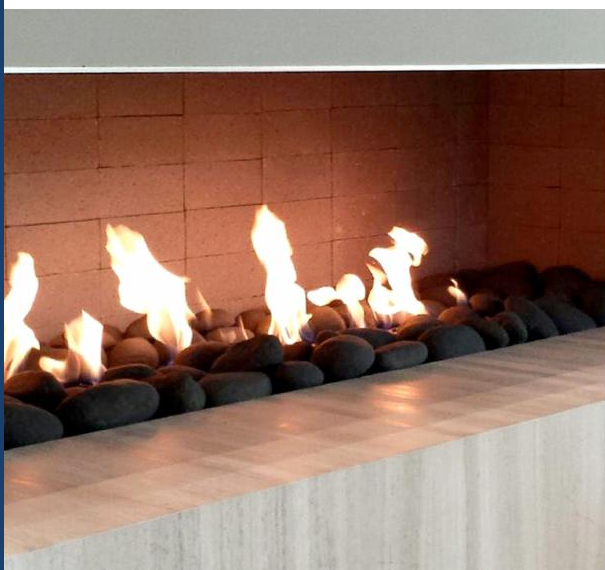


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