

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kaarin Engelmann, Partners in Progress
Phone: 208-681-1004
Email: kengelmann@smacna.org



Hiring HVAC Expertise Protects from the Silent Killer

SOUTHFIELD, MI – The mere mention of a carbon monoxide (CO) leak in a home is enough to make anyone feel light headed. Understandable, considering the gas is referred to as the silent killer.

However, trained HVAC professionals like Jeff Laski, president of S&M Heating & Air Conditioning in Southfield, Michigan, have the expertise to know the difference between a dangerous situation and an easy fix.

“A client recently came to us wanting a second opinion,” Laski says. “Their furnace had been condemned and shut off. It turned out to be a non-threatening problem. We fixed it and started it back up.”

S&M’s HVAC technicians have the expertise to do the job properly because they use standards published by the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA), including the *Residential Comfort Systems Installation Standards Manual* (which Laski helped develop and write) and *Indoor Air Quality - A Systems Approach Manual*.

In addition, the technicians have received advanced training developed by the International Training Institute for the training center sponsored by SMACNA and the International Association of Sheet Metal Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Local 88.

“The instructors have regular discussions about carbon monoxide and manufactures provide demonstrations and presentations to give practical advice,” says Ed Abraham, training director at the center.

Laski recommends having a furnace checked at least every two years in Michigan, but recommended frequency varies on location and weather conditions. That is why the *hvacexpertise.com* is such a useful resource for both homeowners and building owners and managers. It provides tips on how to choose a system, what to look for in an expert, and how to find a contractor with the proper expertise. It also explains who is who on an HVAC team and why following industry standards is important.

“Employing a properly trained service technician is imperative when servicing local residential heating and air conditioning units,” says James Page, Administrator for the International Training Institute. “Due to the complexities of these systems, the need to understand the different manufacturers’ equipment and its operation is essential. The ITI offers this level of training to JATC instructors who pass the knowledge on to the service technicians training nationwide. Achieving the distinction of HVAC excellence master mechanic is the ultimate goal of any SMART member working in the service field.”

Hvacexpertise.com is a program sponsored by SMACNA and SMART. The two organizations also sponsor *asm-expertise.com* to help select contractors with architectural sheet metal expertise and *industrialexpertise.com* to assist owners and facility managers with finding sheet metal contractors who are trained and certified to perform high quality work under difficult working conditions in every industrial setting.

###

The International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) and the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) have a labor-management partnership that is more than 75 years old. The goal of these Partners in Progress is to maintain an effective cooperative effort that demonstrates their expertise in the heating ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC), architectural metal, and industrial sheet metal markets. For additional information, visit pinp.org.