

LOCAL AIR-CONDITIONING INDUSTRY PREPARES FOR WINTER HEATING
SE LA A/C Coalition Provides Furnace Code Training

On Wednesday, December 1, about 50 members of the Southeast Louisiana Coalition of the Air Conditioning Industry (SELA CACI) met for a training on the “*Gas Heating Codes & Regulations -- To Keep Your Butt Out of Trouble*” taught by Kenny Robert of Robert Refrigeration & Barry Couvillion of Lightning Service (the “K&B Team”) at the Louisiana Technical College in Metairie.

The training was designed to teach A/C technicians how to properly install and service gas furnaces (with emphasis on Venting & Piping), focusing on standard as well as high-efficiency units, such as those compatible with unventilated attics – sealed combustion (or condensing) units.

In their own engaging and participatory style, Robert & Couvillion walked the audience through code charts and various graphic representations of design, installation, and service issues, based on their combined sixty years of experience in the A/C industry.

Recognizing the growing number of fully foam-insulated houses, and the ongoing challenges of properly coordinating insulation and HVAC work, SELA CACI plans to host a Public Forum in the Spring to address the building science issues particularly involving foam insulation. Such homes require greater attention to ventilation and moisture control to prevent occupant exposure to combustion gas (where gas appliances are involved) and to prevent the growth of mold, in our hot, humid climate. A “whole house” approach is particularly important in these cases, and proper A/C sizing can also be critical to prevent building performance problems.

The *Southeast Louisiana Coalition of the Air Conditioning Industry* formed in 2007 as a voluntary effort to advance education in the industry after Katrina. Membership is free, and trainings are low-cost and held on a roughly monthly basis, except during the summer. To join the listserv for SELA CACI, contact Charley Leumont, 504-821-2711, charley@acmerefri.com.

Submitted by Audrey Evans