

CRCA TODAY

2026, ISSUE 1

The Magazine
of Roofing and
Waterproofing
in Illinois
and Beyond

Illinois Senate Bill 1742 Explained Solving Fall Protection Dilemmas Black vs White Roofing—Reality of Reflective Roofs



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On the Cover: Photo courtesy of CRCA Contractor Member Sterling Commercial Roofing, a Tecta America Company at Ogle County Court House in Oregon, IL. The project included installing Eco Star Majestic Slate shingles. No harnesses are needed due to the 8' railing on the scaffolding and the Safety Plan was reviewed & approved by Safety Check and Tecta. Additional recognition includes Project Superintendent Brady Keller and SkyLens Enterprises, Inc. for the photo.

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What Is CRCA Today?

By Linda McHugh



Linda McHugh

The original concept of the CRCA publication started as a McGraw Hill insert to promote the early CRCA Trade Show and Seminars. Its main purpose was to really just announce the trade show exhibitors and describe the seminars. That once-a-year publication "insert" was sent to select industry contacts at that time.

In 2012, CRCA's leadership saw the need to develop a tool to educate and promote roofing and waterproofing in Chicago, Chicagoland and beyond, and *CRCA Today* was born. While there were other industry publications at that time, CRCA leaders felt they could bring value to their members and to others in the roofing and waterproofing and construction industry with this new quarterly magazine.

The inaugural *CRCA Today* issue launched in the Winter of 2013 and featured a photo of a roofing installation done by Knickerbocker Roofing at the University of Illinois in Chicago on the cover. The next 50 issues have featured cover photos of other roofing, waterproofing and building envelope installations done by CRCA Contractor members or products or services provided by CRCA Associate members.


Over the next thirteen years, *CRCA Today* has featured articles on a wide range of topics, such as safety, code, legal, technical, government, industry trends, business, and human-interest stories that highlight history, leadership, and others. *CRCA Today* articles are industry specific and product generic.

CRCA Today added new features over the years including member spotlights, both contractor and associate, to introduce these to the readership and let the over 9,000 readers per issue know a bit more about what makes CRCA member firms tick. Typically laid out as the issue "centerfold," watch for these in future issues.

Having been involved with the *CRCA Today* since the inaugural issue, I have really enjoyed my time as editor. There has been so much valuable information shared between industry professionals and others as well as advocating to advance the industry, both of which are part of CRCA's mission as an association.

As I pass the torch onto *CRCA Today's* new editor, Gina Wormley, I would also like to recognize the publication's loyal advertisers. . . . many that have promoted their products and services since 'Day One.' When you read this current issue, either in hard copy or electronic, spend a moment on the ads and contact those you would like to learn more about.

I would also like to thank the great team of CRCA volunteers who have provided guidance over the last thirteen years to *CRCA Today's* production. CRCA's Marketing Committee has been an invaluable help in determining article topics, writers and also the huge task of proofreading each article over these many years. Your insight and time spent was greatly appreciated.

Don't let this current issue gather dust on your desk or remain unread in your inbox. Read and learn and share knowledge with others in our industry. This will help grow the advancement of new products, processes, and other key information of our industry without forgetting those that helped steer the roofing and waterproofing world as we know today. To learn more or get involved, contact info@CRCA.org today! Thanks! 

Tackling Fall Protection Challenges with Effective Safety Leadership—CRCA Safety Seminar Recap

By Frank Marino and Joel Barnes



Frank Marino



Joel Barnes

The January 16, 2026, CRCA Trade Show tackled many topics important to the roofing industry. None more important than the topic of Safety. This year's Friday safety seminar confronted an ongoing challenge for today's roofing contractor: solving fall protection dilemmas when the regulations and the realities do not meet. The seminar began with understanding the need, as well as the value of effective leadership on the roof.

Building on that foundation, the seminar shifted to how effective safety leadership influences daily decision-making on the roof, particularly within today's multi-generational workforce. While written policies and

procedures are essential, attendees were reminded that on short-duration and service work, leadership often becomes the determining factor in whether those policies are successfully applied.

This portion of the discussion focused on the realities facing modern roofing crews, where veteran workers and newer employees may approach hazards, communication, and learn differently. Emphasis was placed on the role of supervisors in bridging those differences through clear communication, consistency, and active engagement. Effective safety leadership was framed not as a soft concept, but as a practical tool that reinforces expectations, builds trust, and supports safer decision-making when conditions are unfamiliar, or time

pressures exist. This is even more true when conditions are unfamiliar or time pressures exist.

By connecting leadership behaviors to real-world service scenarios, the presenters highlighted how strong leadership not only improves compliance but also strengthens crew resilience. These behaviors reinforce a positive safety culture across all experience levels.

After gaining a better understanding of the impact effective leadership has on each member of a roofing crew, the presenters turned to address an issue that most roofers eventually run into, which is "What happens when the fall hazards during the roofing operation don't fit neatly into a clearly defined OSHA standard?" This issue is best attributed to a service crew going out on a leak call on a customer's roof that the workers may be completely unfamiliar with. In 2025, Fall Protection was the number one most cited OSHA standard for roofing contractors (OSHA, 2026) and it is situations like the one mentioned above that is a significant contributor to that statistic. Raising the stakes even higher is the fact that falls continue to be the leading cause of fatalities in the roofing industry (BLS, 2026).

Several situations that roofing contractors find themselves in on a regular basis were then discussed. This particular discussion elicited feedback from the audience that proved the seminar was on the right track. When the time came to discuss solutions to the issue, all in attendance were clearly aware that one major theme was evident. Every roof project needs to be evaluated on its own individually, and site-specific plans need to be customized accordingly. As opposed to the old saying, one size does NOT fit all.

A technique discussed for foremen implementing this process included the following steps:

- Perform a roof inspection (which includes both inside the building and on the roof.)

- Determine the fall hazard exposure.
- Determine a fall protection plan (which includes a feasibility assessment).
- Execute the fall protection plan.

Another strategy that was discussed included what specific hazards should be identified when performing the roof inspection. This was narrowed down to three roofing specific operations/hazards:

- Exposure to the Perimeter
- Exposure to Holes
- Hoisting / Downloading Operations.

Overall, the seminar was very well received by all in attendance and proved to be a productive exercise in CRCA's ongoing effort to protect roofing contractors and their employees.

As a reminder, it is also that time of year gain to have your OSHA 300 forms completed and posted. Form 300A must be **completed, certified by a company executive, and posted** in a location where employees normally see workplace notices. OSHA is explicit about the timing: the summary must be posted **from February 1 through April 30**, even if the company experienced **zero recordable injuries** during the year (29 CFR § 1904.32(b) (5)). This applies equally to roofing contractors with seasonal crews, multiple jobsites, or a main shop that employees report to intermittently. In addition to posting, many roofing contractors must also **electronically submit** injury and illness data through OSHA's **Injury Tracking Application (ITA)**. OSHA currently requires electronic submission by March 2 for certain establishments based on size and NAICS code, with construction (NAICS 23) falling into categories that may require submission of the 300A summary, and in some cases additional forms (OSHA ITA Guidance; OSHA Recordkeeping Rule, 29 CFR § 1904.41).

Handled properly, OSHA recordkeeping becomes less about paperwork and more about maintaining a clear, defensible snapshot of your company's safety performance, something that benefits both compliance efforts and long-term risk management.

Reference:

- www.osha.gov; www.bls.gov

Frank Marino is a Partner at Safety Check, Inc., a safety consulting firm in the Chicago area and a CRCA Member. Marino has extensive experience in roofing safety and is a member of the CRCA Health and Safety Committee. He is a member of the Occupational Environmental Safety & Health Advisory Board at the University of Wisconsin, working with faculty and safety professionals on curriculum development and industry updates. He can be reached at fmarino@safetycheckinc.com.

Joel R. Barnes serves as a Field Safety Consultant for CRCA Associate Member Safety Check Inc. and as Co-chair of the CRCA Health and Safety Committee. He also serves on the NW Indiana Business Roundtable (NWIWRT) Safety Committee and brings over a decade of professional experience in safety management, supported by a distinguished background as a U.S. Army Officer. Barnes is a Certified Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) and holds advanced certifications in fall protection, asbestos abatement, and emergency management systems. He can be reached at jbarnes@safetycheckinc.com.

OSHA Safety Stand Down Coming in May

The 13th annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction will be held May 4th-8th, 2026. Originated in 2014, OSHA launched the Safety Stand-

Down to create awareness and prevent fatal falls in construction, the leading cause of worker deaths in the industry. This important safety event encourages employers to pause work and carve out time for safety education such as toolbox talks, equipment inspections and other training during the workday. The initiative, which has grown to include millions of participants across all 50 states and internationally, is held in partnership with NIOSH, CPWR, and Construction Safety Week.

Important resources include:

- Suggestions for a Successful Safety Stand-Down: <https://www.osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down/suggestions>
- Safety Stand-Down Resources in Spanish: <https://www.osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down/resources>
- Fall Prevention Publications: <https://www.osha.gov/publications/bytopic/fall-prevention-protection>

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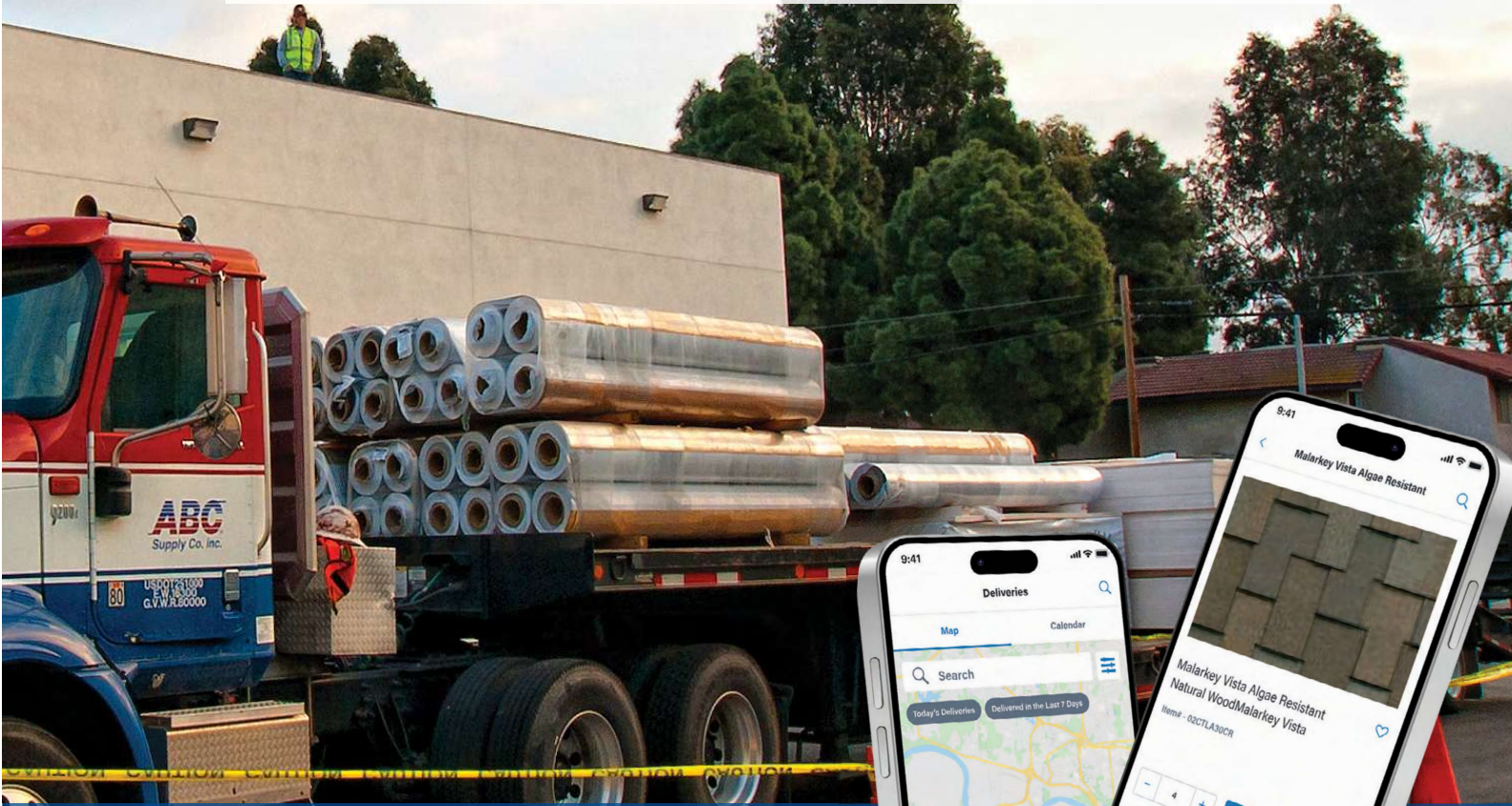


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Growth, Risk, and Accountability: The New Reality for Roofing Contractors

By Trent Cotney



Trent Cotney

At the 2026 CRCA Expo keynote presentation, contractors were reminded that the roofing industry is operating in a period of accelerated transition, driven not by a single factor but by a convergence of legal, financial, and operational pressures. Consolidation, private equity involvement,

insurance volatility, payment instability, scope creep, workforce disruption, and rapid adoption of technology are reshaping how roofing businesses operate and, more importantly, how risk is allocated. These shifts are occurring faster than many contractors' internal systems, contracts, and compliance practices are prepared to absorb, creating exposure that often remains invisible until a dispute, claim, or audit occurs.

One of the most significant trends discussed was the rise of contractor-to-contractor mergers, acquisitions, and roll-ups. Aging ownership, succession gaps, and the appeal of predictable cash flow have made roofing an attractive target for private equity and strategic buyers. While consolidation can create efficiencies, shared labor pools, and expanded geographic reach, it also causes legal exposure to scale faster than operations. Contracts executed by one entity can bind the entire organization, and legacy liabilities often migrate upward after a transaction closes. Contractors expanding through acquisition must recognize that growth multiplies risk unless contract review, insurance alignment, and compliance protocols evolve in parallel.

Private equity influence has further accelerated these dynamics by introducing standardized contracts, centralized decision-making, and shorter investment horizons. This shift often pushes risk downstream to operating companies and trade partners. Contractors were cautioned that margin pressure and predictability

demands can unintentionally encourage aggressive contract terms, tighter indemnity provisions, and reduced tolerance for deviation from standardized processes, all of which require heightened legal scrutiny at the operating level.

Insurance and risk transfer challenges continue to catch contractors off guard, particularly with respect to additional insured coverage. Many contractors believe they are protected based on contractual promises or certificates of insurance, only to discover after a lawsuit is filed that the endorsement does not apply, was never properly issued, or does not cover the work performed. Blanket additional insured endorsements are typically narrow and depend on strict causal language. Certificates of insurance provide no binding rights. The practical effect is that contractors often assume they are insured under another party's policy until it is too late.

Coverage gaps are further compounded by residential exclusions that increasingly appear in commercial policies. Buildings that contractors reasonably view as commercial are later classified as residential for insurance purposes, eliminating coverage altogether. Wrap-up programs present a similar risk. While OCIPs and CCIPs are marketed as comprehensive solutions, they frequently exclude roofing operations, water intrusion claims, or building envelope work, leaving contractors exposed after waiving their own insurance rights to participate.

Payment risk and project financing instability were also emphasized as growing concerns. Delayed owner funding, aggressive pay-if-paid clauses, retainage misuse, and disappearing lenders have made collections a frontline operational issue rather than a back-office function. Contractors were encouraged to implement standardized collection timelines, monitor accounts receivable closely, and act early rather than allowing balances to age into disputes that are far more difficult to resolve.

Scope creep and design responsibility drift remain persistent sources of liability. Verbal directives, "just get


it done" expectations, and informal field decisions often result in contractors absorbing design responsibility without compensation or coverage. When contracts are silent, responsibility is assumed. This exposure can lead to defective workmanship claims, professional liability issues without insurance support, and the loss of change order rights. Clear written change order requirements, express design responsibility disclaimers, constructability limitations, and escalation clauses were highlighted as critical tools for preserving risk boundaries.

Technology adoption is accelerating these challenges rather than eliminating them. AI-assisted estimating, drone inspections, automated scheduling, and digital documentation increase efficiency but also change how evidence is created and interpreted. Estimates are increasingly treated as guarantees, drone imagery becomes litigation exhibits, and algorithms introduce undocumented assumptions. Contractors were advised to pair technology adoption with clear contractual disclaimers that reinforce professional judgment, field verification, and limits on reliance.

Finally, labor and immigration enforcement continue to present operational risk. Contractors must understand the difference between enforceable judicial and non-

binding ICE warrants, train personnel on proper response protocols, and avoid making statements without legal guidance. I-9 compliance remains a high-risk area, where minor technical errors can result in significant penalties. Annual internal audits, centralized communication with investigators, proper record retention, and nondiscriminatory correction processes were emphasized as best practices.

The overarching message from the presentation was clear: today's roofing contractors are not just roofers, but risk managers operating in a complex legal and regulatory environment. Growth, technology, and market opportunity remain strong, but only for those willing to align contracts, insurance, compliance, and operational discipline with the realities of a rapidly evolving industry.

The information contained in this article is for general educational information only. This information does not constitute legal advice, is not intended to constitute legal advice, nor should it be relied upon as legal advice for your specific factual pattern or situation. 

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How Much Consternation Have Reflective Roofs Caused YOU?

By Tom Hutchinson



Tom Hutchinson

It has been almost thirty years since a few researchers from Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory (LBL) with little if any knowledge of roof systems turned the roofing industry on its head by stating that white roofs would reflect the solar radiation from the sun and lower energy cost, reduce the urban heat island effect, bless

your first born and save the world.

This naivete, and I say ignorance, cost homeowners, building owners and contractors millions of dollars along the way. They had no clue that roofs, being roofs, get dirty. Here is a photo of a roof at the McCormick Place expansion during my 'punch list' inspection. The building was not even completed.



Photo 1: McCormick Place
(All photos courtesy of Hutchison Design.)

There are now two entire generations of roofing personnel that know little of this debate and believe that a reflective roof surface is the only way to go. However, as the saying goes. . . . "Those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat past mistakes."

In 1996, the City of Chicago was considering adopting a 'white' mandate. We all know that Chicago is in a climate that receives so much sun that it needed to be addressed. I was requested to write a letter to the city to comment on this proposal. In that letter, I concluded by stating that in my experience, a ballasted roof may be the most energy efficient roof there is. Years later, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) proved me right. All the researchers had to do was get on some roofs.

In 1996, as President of the Roof Consultants Institute (RCI, now known as the International Institute of Building Envelope Consultants IIBEC), I presented a paper at that years Symposium on Rooftop Reflectivity and took the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory research to task with the following questions / comments:

- Is the concern an energy thing?
- Is the concern an Urban Heat Island effect (UHI) thing?
- Ever been to Vegas where from the roof you can see miles of black asphalt paving?
- Cleaning the roof surface . . .are you kidding me? Building owners cannot clean the drains!
- Power wash the roof, and the warranty is shot.
- Why not share the LBL algorithm and the assumptions made for input?

Those promoting reflective roofs were not happy. Neither were the hundreds of contractors stuck with asphalt kettles going obsolete as a result of the pressure to install reflective roofs, which was being not just encouraged, but in some instances, mandated, without proper scientific findings to justify the reasoning.

I also pondered the fact that the main issue of condensation with reflective roofs was a physics phenomenon that the physicist just didn't get. I encouraged the researchers to get on the roof - to understand the situation fully.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined the bandwagon. While you could have a EnergyStar washing

machine with its thousands of parts, you could also get a EnergyStar roof membrane. I always thought that with the decrease of asbestos in roofing, that the EPA desired reflective roofs as they promote roof surface organic growth. This growth would be pulled into the building via the HVAC intake system on the roof. Then the EPA would have something to do.

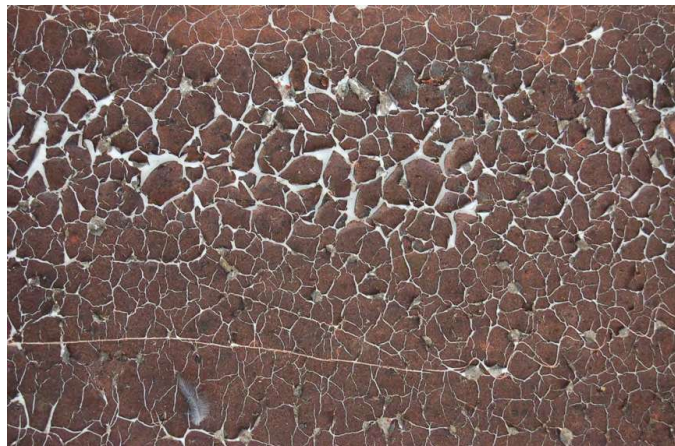


Photo 2: Red Algae commonly seen on reflective roofs. Its growth is due to the low-surface temperature often in areas of rooftop units where it can be taken into the interior.

Many articles and also the code developers started to get on the “We can save the world” white roof surface kick. But why did it even gather interest on the roofing contractor side of the industry? Back in the 1990s, a ballasted 45 mil EPDM roof membrane on a warehouse went for about \$0.95/sf. A 10’-0” wide, mechanically fastened TPO roof membrane could be installed for less. It became a business decision.

As contractors changed to TPO, I would hear comments like, “I just removed eight (8) layers of a built-up roof (BUR), a traditional old time Chicago roof with a 1/2” wood fiber board and installed 1.5” of polyisocyanurate roof insulation (ISO) and a white TPO. That’s three times the thermal value they had.” Then the owner calls with leaks all over.

In the late 1990s, at a large building pre-bid meeting, I took time to explain to the contractors present what was happening and suggested that the contractors not proceed in this manner if a project had specified a reflective roof membrane to be sure their contract has a caveat about, “We don’t design.”

What am I talking about? At one time, the asphalt used in BUR was also used as an adhesive for the insulation, and this asphalt performed the job of a vapor retarder (preventing air transport—a fancy word for movement) into the roof system. When the LBL research guys said, “You cannot do that. You must now use a single layer” of

insulation and use this new-fangled, still in development TPO.” Then, the interior moisture could now move up into the roof system, where it condensates on the underside of the membrane.

In winter, it froze. Those lucky enough to walk across frozen roofs, walk the ‘Rice Krispy’ way, as all the ice below the watertight roof, ‘snaps, cracks and pops’ as one walks across the roof. This ice would melt, saturate paper facers, run down to the roof deck and interior or come down screw threads.



Photo 3: Note the ice should be on top of the membrane and not below.



Photo 4: With 1/2” of ice in seam, melt water can run down screw threads to interior, creating life safety concerns on concrete floor below.

Just this week, I received a call from a Chicagoland roofing contractor to look at two warehouses, which they installed the TPO in 2023 with two layers of ISO, which are experiencing the same issues. The building owner couldn’t believe that architects are allowed to design roofs the can drip on the interior.

In the fall of 2008, I investigated a large roof in central Illinois, composed of a mechanically attached TPO over one layer of ISO insulation on metal decking. Leaks were reported across the building throughout winter and into the spring. My article called “Challenging What’s Cool,”

published in *Eco-structure*, was the first mainstream article to discuss issues with reflective roof surfaces. It made it to the desk of the U.S. Energy Secretary.

When the roof structure and decking is wood, and the insulation below deck, the results are much more severe. Quick and advanced deterioration of trusses and the roof sheathing/decking can occur. Yummy forms of mold often grow on the underside of the sheathing.



Photo 5: Rotten wood - moisture-damaged OSB which is the result of condensation within and above the OSB Board.



Photo 6: Deteriorated Roof Structure - concern with heavy, wet snow.

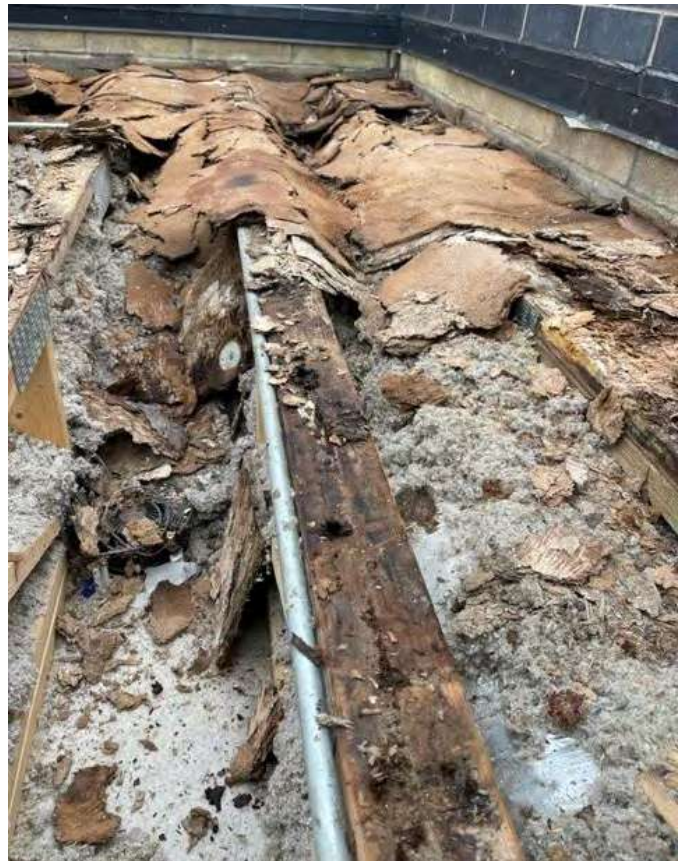


Photo 7: Common with below deck insulation, complete loss of structural integrity of OSB sheathing and wood trusses deterioration.



Photos 8-10: Severe mold growth on OSB underside.

As the past technical consultant for the EPDM Roofing Association (ERA), I fielded calls from Sacramento to St. Louis to Nashville and the story was the same. "The built-up roof on my home/property was 30 years old and worked just fine. Then the roof was removed and one of those white roofs installed and we now have leaks."

I questioned for years whether LBL or the EPA was going to pay for the failed roofs that they promoted. Some of which cost in the millions to repair. Finally, the ERA got the EPA to remove the nomenclature that a single component roof material was EnergyStar certified.

What Happened?

For decades built-up, modified bitumen and single-ply (predominately EPDM) roofs were installed with low thermal values. The asphalt used as an insulation adhesive prevented conditioned interior air transition (fancy word for air moving

into the roof system from the underside of the deck) into the roofing system. On single ply installation, especially ballasted EPDM, air (especially construction generated moisture in the air) did move to the underside of the membrane and condense. But unknown to most, the warm, summer temperatures vaporized the moisture and drove it back into the building, which was dryer than before. This hidden benefit of a dark roof is called, "self-drying."

I was taught in school that when testing a new thought, process, etc., to look for issues and ask all the questions, both pro and con, to determine if your hypothesis is or was correct. What I fault earlier researchers with was that they never asked the question "Is black good?"

What occurred with white membranes, soon to be referred to as reflective membranes, was that moisture-laden air moved into the roof system, much like it did with early black surfaced membranes, condensed and saturated the hygroscopic materials below. The reflective roofing never warmed enough to move the moisture in the system out of the assembly. Year after year, the moisture accumulated. This scenario played out in the 1990's, 2000's, and today.

Cities around the country started making reflective roofs a code requirement. Architects, who were never known for their roofing knowledge, just designed the reflective roofs without question, often to their dismay. Smart jurisdictions, like Chicago, allowed options to white roofs with


reflectivity of .72 new, .50 aged 3 years for the rooftop surface. Heavy 17 lbs./SF of ballast on single ply roofs, reflective modified bitumen membrane surfaces that met the criteria, all are allowed.

My beef with the whole thing is that the decision of a roof surface color should be left to the architect and building owner, not mandated. Architects make enough mistakes on their own without being mandated by code to make one. Most egregious results are with wood structures with below deck insulation, where roof deck and any cover board lose all structural integrity very rapidly.



Photo 11: Scary Roof Deck Conditions! Who gets to pay for corrective work?

All roof membranes and surfaces have their pros and cons and designers and salespeople from manufacturers and independent reps need to know them so that proper decisions and recommendations can be made without blowback. They all need to learn to not promote products/systems without reviewing with the architects the building use, interior climate, roof use, height, etc. The concern is that many current new and young salespeople are too green to know this and do not have the experience to do the research needed on the products they represent and focus only on sales growth.

Design knowledgeably and detail correctly for the roof cover you select and you will be halfway there! 

Editor's Note: Watch for more on Energy and Urban Heat Island thoughts from Tom in a future CRCA Today article!

Tom "Hutch" Hutchinson, AIA, CSI, RRC, RRP, is Principal/Vice President of the CRCA Associate Member Hutchinson Design Group, located in Barrington, IL. Hutchinson is a graduate of the University of Illinois with master's degrees in both architecture and civil engineering. As a licensed architect, he has received recognition globally for his expertise in roof system design and building envelope issues. He has made numerous presentations worldwide including topics such as: Keys to Sustainable Construction and Environmentally Sensitive and Energy Conscious Roofs. He can be reached at Info@hutchinsondesigngroup.com.



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Roof Talk—Contractor



Company: Clark Roofing Co.

Location: 2700 W. Cermak Rd., Broadview IL

Business Founded: 1946

Number of Employees: 75

Joined CRCA: 1987

Who is providing the answers: Alex Hernandez,
President

What Services Does Your Company Offer?

Service, Repair & Maintenance for Commercial Roofs, Commercial Reroofing, and Sheet Metal Work

What Sets Your Business Apart?

Clark Roofing Co. gives customers clarity, not confusion. Clark explains options in plain language and guides decisions with honesty. We treat every building like our own, focusing on long-term protection rather than quick temporary fixes. Clients value our responsiveness, transparency, and the peace of mind that comes from working with a team that truly listens. This year, Clark is celebrating 80 years of serving the Chicagoland area. With national level expertise and a reputation for solving problems, we deliver solutions that protect our clients' investment and hopefully earn trust.

List Your Favorite CRCA Event.

I was able to attend a CRCA tabletop meet-and-greet recently. It was great to talk with old friends, and I was also able to meet a few new people.

What Value Does CRCA Membership Bring to You?

Membership in the CRCA gives Clark Roofing Co. access to ongoing education, technical resources, and industry updates that keep our team sharp and compliant. It connects us with a strong network of contractors, manufacturers, consultants, and architects who help solve problems and strengthen relationships. We also benefit from CRCA's advocacy

work, which protects contractor interests and elevates industry standards in Illinois. Their safety tools, inspections, and workforce resources help us maintain safer, more efficient jobsites. Overall, CRCA membership supports our business, our people, and our customers.


What Advice Would You Give to a New CRCA Member?

Get involved, meet the people working on your behalf, and take the opportunity to listen.

If You Could Sit Atop Any "Roof" in Chicago, What Rooftop Would It Be and Why?

I would choose one of the rooftops along Chicago's lakefront. From up there, you get a clear view of how Chicago meets the water—the shoreline, the parks, and the towers lined up against the lake. Those buildings show the city's shift from early high rises to the modern skyline most people recognize today. Standing on one of those roofs, the whole layout of Chicago feels straightforward and connected. It is a spot where the city's shape really makes sense and gives you a great vantage point for buildings you have not explored yet.

If You Could Witness a Sporting or Concert Event from Any "Rooftop" in the World, What Event and Where?

I would pick a rooftop overlooking Italy's Lake Como during a summer concert in one of the lakeside towns. From up there, you get the music, the lights, and the view of the water and mountains all at once. The mix of old villas and modern life feels easy to take in from that angle. 

Editors' Note:

Alex Hernandez was elected Chairman of the Board for the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) in June 2025. Emigrating from Cuba with his family as a toddler, he worked his way up into construction and roofing to his role as Clark Roofing Co. President today. Hernandez's father-in-law, Mike Promen, also served in this NRCA role in 2001. To learn more about Hernandez's roofing career, visit NRCA's Professional Roofing Article, "Building a Legacy" by Chrystine Elle Haus at <https://nrca.net/search?q=alex%20hernandez>.

Roof Talk—Associate



Company: Capstone Materials Group, LLC.
Location: Schaumburg, IL
Business Founded: 2022
Number of Employees: 5
Joined CRCA: 2022
Who is providing the answers: Adam Sesso, Principal

What Service(s) Does Your Business Offer?

Capstone Materials Group is a commercial roofing manufacturer's representative firm serving contractors, architects, consultants, and building owners. We represent GAF and Siplast in the Chicago and northern Illinois market. We specialize in helping clients with product expertise and project support from the conceptual phase through the final inspection and beyond.

We act as the liaison between top roofing product manufacturers and the local professionals in the field. Some of the services we offer provide to our customers include: guidance on roof system design, tapered insulation design support, AIA/CEU Lunch & Learns for architects and design firms, on-site technical support, hands-on training for installers, product training for sales teams.

What Sets Your Business Apart?

Capstone Materials Group sets itself apart by delivering technical expertise and hands-on project support throughout the entire commercial roofing lifecycle. We go beyond product representation by providing field testing, system design guidance, specification assistance, and on-site troubleshooting to ensure every roofing system is installed and performs as intended. We are committed to building trust and long-term partnerships through a service-first approach.

Do You Have an Interesting or Unique Business Experience That You'd Like to Share?

The first CRCA Tradeshow I ever attended was in 2010. I was interviewing for a Junior Territory Manager position with GAF and the lobby of Drury Lane was the location of the first interview. It sounded like a strange place to have a first interview at the time but afterwards it made total sense to me. I had never been to a big tradeshow before that and it really opened my eyes to how big the roofing industry truly is and the potential career paths it presented.

List Your Favorite CRCA Event. Why?

The Tradeshow. People might be surprised by that answer but January is kind of an off month for roofing in Chicago. The whole mood of things changes once the holidays are over and the reality of January sets in. Things get cold, slow and quiet. And then the third week of January hits and it's like the lights get turned on again. Everyone gets together for a few days and suddenly we are all back in action.


What Value Does CRCA Membership Bring to You?

I find attending the events is the best way to meet people in our industry. Aside from networking, the CRCA does a great job of communicating information through their publications and guest speakers about the various changes happening that impact our business. Whether that be regulatory changes or industry trends, it really serves as a pulse for the roofing industry.

What Advice Would You Give a New CRCA Member?

The CRCA is one of the most active and vibrant roofing associations in the country. Use it to your advantage to stay informed, get connected and build relationships.

If You Could Witness a Sports or Concert Event from Any "Rooftop" in the World, What Event and Where?

Wimbledon would be the event, without a doubt. I'm not really sure if the Waveland and Sheffield experience would be available at that kind of venue but I would take whatever seat I could get for that event. 

Getting Creative with Workforce Development: CRCA and Military Veterans

By CRCA Staff



Matthew Broderick

Honor. Sacrifice. Commitment. We can all agree these words best describe the men and women of the US military. What you may not know, however, is the number of service members who leave the military each year. The figure published by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics,

is approximately 200,000 per year. To put that in perspective, it averages approximately 1,000 service members leaving the military per business day. What happens when these veterans leave the service? Where can they turn for career placement? How do companies find these great candidates?

In an interview with the CRCA, Matt Broderick, founder and owner of Impart Consulting, explained how his company does just that for Chicagoland military veterans.

Prior to establishing Impart Consulting, Broderick started his career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He relished his time there, but after seventeen years, he knew it was time to transition into something new. But that time of transition brought uncertainty. After so long in the finance world could he really transition into a totally new career? How would he know the right path? What company would be open to hiring someone with a long-term career from another field?

Broderick says his circumstance is not unlike what military veterans face when leaving the service, especially if their service was lengthy. Broderick states, "Many transitioning service members experience a loss of structure and predictability. They are no longer operating within the clear routines and expectations they were accustomed to in the military."

So how did Impart Consulting become a lifeline for veterans looking to transition into a new career?

Recently after Broderick left the Mercantile Exchange, a family friend was retiring from the Navy and looking to transition into the corporate workplace. That friend, a Navy Captain, was in a position to start his own business to support younger, less financially stable transitioning veterans. He asked Broderick for help, knowing he had contacts from his tenure in the corporate realm. That journey became the impetus in creating Impart Consulting.

Broderick emphasized "There's a whole talent pool that is forgotten by employers. I want to introduce that talent pool to these employers, and in turn, place great candidates into their forever jobs."

In 2025, Impart Consulting joined the CRCA. Because of the CRCA's dedication to the men and women within the roofing industry, and the hundreds of companies it represents, Broderick feels it is a perfect match.

"I think the roofing industry is a strong fit for veterans because of the routine and structure it offers—early morning starts, repetitive essential tasks, consistent schedules, and the physical nature of the work. Many veterans also earn their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, which aligns extremely well with the operational and leadership demands of roofing." Broderick explained.

The CRCA's diverse networking opportunities allow Impart Consulting to introduce potential candidates to the roofing industry. According to Broderick, "Veterans possess an ability to adjust on the fly and problem solve, they work hard to complete each and every job given to them." These skills are a game changer for any employer looking for a reliable employee. Broderick places veterans in project manager roles, sales positions, and more throughout the roofing industry.

The CRCA welcomes Impart Consulting to the CRCA family. 

For more information, CRCA Member Matt Broderick can be reached via email at matt.broderick@impartconsulting.com

Understanding Illinois SB 1742 and Its Impact on Rooftops

By Stephanie Creed



Stephanie Creed

On August 1, 2025, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1742 into law. While the bill passed with relatively little public attention, its effective date of January 1, 2026, quickly brought it into focus for contractors, designers, building owners, and municipal officials across the state. For many in the

roofing and construction industries, SB 1742 felt abrupt—less because of its intent and more because of how decisively it reframes rooftop safety expectations outside of the traditional building code process.

SB 1742, formally titled the Rooftop Safety for First Responders Act, is not a revision to the International Building Code (IBC), nor does it amend the International Fire Code or existing local ordinances. Instead, it operates alongside those frameworks as a state-level mandate that addresses a specific and pressing safety gap: the risks faced by first responders operating on low-sloped commercial rooftops during emergency conditions.

While some of the Act's language remains open to interpretation, its direction is unmistakable. Illinois lawmakers have made clear that rooftop hazards, particularly unprotected openings, are no longer an acceptable blind spot in life-safety planning. SB 1742 represents a policy shift toward proactive identification, documentation, and mitigation of rooftop fall hazards, with the ultimate goal of preventing another avoidable tragedy.

Why This Matters: Rooftops as Active Emergency Environments

In an ideal scenario, anyone accessing a rooftop has reviewed the roof plans in advance. They understand where mechanical units are located, where skylights or shafts exist, and where changes in elevation or hidden openings present risks. On paper, rooftops are mapped,

labeled, and defined. In theory, hazards are known before boots ever hit the membrane.

In practice, that scenario is rare.

Modern commercial and multiple unit residential rooftops are no longer simple, open expanses. Each trade adds its own layer of complexity, often at different points in a building's life cycle. What begins as a coordinated design can quickly evolve into a patchwork of systems installed years apart, sometimes with limited documentation continuity.

This reality creates a fundamental challenge: rooftop safety cannot be effectively addressed by any single stakeholder acting in isolation. Designers, roofing contractors, mechanical contractors, owners, facility managers, inspectors, and municipalities all influence how a rooftop ultimately functions and how safe it is for those who must access it. These users typically have time, visibility, and familiarity with the roof layout. First responders do not.

During an emergency, firefighters and police officers may access a roof with no prior knowledge of its configuration. They operate under extreme time pressure and smoke, weather, darkness, urgency, and bulky protective gear transform already complex rooftops into high-risk environments. Openings that might be obvious in daylight during routine maintenance can become nearly invisible hazards during an emergency response.

From a policy perspective, small design interventions represent a meaningful reduction in life-safety risks and is precisely why SB 1742 advanced quickly through the Illinois General Assembly.

What Is SB 1742? Legislative Intent and Scope

The motivation for SB 1742 was a fatal incident in November 2023 when a Chicago firefighter fell through a rooftop air shaft while responding to an emergency. In the aftermath, lawmakers identified a troubling reality and chose to address that gap by establishing minimum

safety expectations for unprotected openings on low-sloped roofs, including courts, shafts, and skylights. The Act requires that these openings be protected by parapets, guardrails, extended masonry, or, in the case of skylights, glazed coverings that meet specific performance thresholds.

A key provision appears in Section 15 of the Act, which mandates that by January 1, 2027, municipalities must conduct surveys of applicable buildings and share the results with local police and fire departments. These surveys must be updated every two years. This requirement signals a shift away from passive compliance toward active documentation and communication, ensuring that first responders have access to current information about rooftop hazards within their jurisdictions.

It is critical to note what SB 1742 does not do. It does not rewrite building codes, invalidate existing code approvals, or replace OSHA requirements. Instead, it functions as a state-level safety mandate aimed at reporting, identifying, and addressing fall hazards on rooftops (both existing and new) across Illinois.

Where the Act Applies

SB 1742 applies broadly across the built environment. Under Section 10, the Act covers low-sloped roof edges and skylights in the following conditions:

- Existing buildings
- New construction
- New roofs
- Roof replacements
- Renovation projects that increase the area of a building by more than 50 percent

This expansive applicability underscores the legislature's intent to address both legacy conditions and future development. Rooftop safety is no longer confined to new construction alone; existing conditions are explicitly within scope. Section 5 of the Act provides definitions for "court" and "shaft," clarifying the types of openings that require protection. By codifying these terms, the Act attempts to reduce ambiguity around what constitutes an unprotected opening though interpretation challenges remain.

Skylights: From Daylighting Feature to Life-Safety Element

Skylights receive particular attention under SB 1742. Under Section 10, all skylights and other rooftop openings that are not legally required to remain open and unobstructed must comply with one of two protection strategies. The first option is glazing. Skylights

glazed with wired glass, plain glass, glass block, or polycarbonate plastic must be constructed to withstand a minimum dynamic load of 400 pounds. This requirement establishes a clear performance threshold that prioritizes fall resistance over traditional daylighting or thermal considerations. The second option is guard protection, which must comply with IBC Section 1015. This includes protection by parapets, extended masonry, or guardrails that meet standard height, load, and opening limitations. For designers and contractors, skylights can no longer be treated solely as architectural or energy-efficiency elements; they must now be evaluated as potential fall hazards requiring structural consideration early in the design process.

Retrofit Challenges and Practical Constraints

One of the most complex aspects of SB 1742 is its application to existing buildings. Retrofitting rooftop protections introduces challenges that extend beyond simple compliance. Early evaluation and coordination are essential. Reactive solutions, particularly those that require penetrating or altering existing roof systems, risk voiding warranties and introducing water-intrusion concerns. Fortunately, mobile or non-penetrating guardrail systems may mitigate some of these risks, but they are not universally applicable.

Space constraints, conflicts with mechanical layouts, and access requirements must all be carefully considered. Adding parapets or guardrails affects not only safety but also structural loading, drainage, and maintenance workflows. In some cases, addressing one hazard may introduce new complications elsewhere on the roof. Notably, the Act does not prescribe how these conflicts must be resolved. It establishes the requirement that hazardous conditions be addressed, but leaves the means and methods largely to the discretion of project teams and local authorities. This flexibility allows for tailored solutions, but it also introduces uncertainty.

Relationship to the International Building Code

Despite the new obligations introduced by SB 1742, rooftops must still remain fully compliant with the International Building Code. This is why the Act explicitly references IBC Section 1015 rather than duplicating guardrail requirements. Under the IBC:

- Guards are required along open-sided walking surfaces where there is a drop of 30 inches or more.
- Guards must be a minimum of 42 inches high.

- Guardrails must resist a 50-pound-per-linear-foot load and a 200-pound concentrated load (IBC Sec. 1670.8).
- Openings must prevent the passage of a 4-inch sphere.

SB 1742 does not replace these requirements; it reinforces them in contexts that may not have been fully contemplated during original design or construction.

Responsibility, Enforcement, and Open Questions

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of SB 1742 is determining responsibility. Municipalities are tasked with surveying and monitoring buildings, but building owners will likely bear significant responsibility for implementing corrective measures. Contractors remain responsible for protecting their workers and any individuals accessing the rooftop; however, this responsibility now extends beyond jobsite safety. Contractors are increasingly positioned as the first line of risk identification, meaning they're expected to recognize hazardous conditions, notify building owners, and recommend compliant, cost-effective solutions that reduce exposure for all parties involved.


At present, the Act does not specify fines or penalties for non-compliance. Enforcement mechanisms will likely vary by jurisdiction, raising questions about consistency and liability. Will costs be assigned to owners, designers,

or the last contractor to work on the roof? How will compliance be documented? Will rooftop hazards need to be shown on drawings or marked with signage?

Additional questions will continue to emerge as implementation progresses. How will conflicts with OSHA requirements, manufacturer guidelines, or fire-code provisions be resolved? Which authority prevails when standards overlap?

Looking Ahead

SB 1742 should be understood as a starting point, not a finished system. It reflects a growing recognition that rooftops are not static spaces but active life-safety environments—especially during emergencies. As guidance evolves and municipalities develop enforcement strategies, collaboration across disciplines will be essential.

While the coordination required may feel burdensome, the intent is clear: no first responder should lose their life to a hidden rooftop hazard. In that context, SB 1742 represents not just a regulatory change, but a meaningful shift in how rooftop safety is defined, documented, and prioritized across Illinois. 

Stephanie Creed is a second-generation manufacturers' representative at CRCA Associate Member All Weather Products where she represents commercial roofing accessories like Safety Rail Company (safetyrailcompany.com) for Illinois and Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit roofingtuff.com.

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Unlocking Tax Savings: How the One Big Beautiful Bill Act Modifies Depreciation for Commercial Roof Replacements

By Pete Antonopoulos



Pete Antonopoulos

Introduction

For commercial property owners, the cost of replacing a roof is a significant investment. But thanks to recent changes in federal tax law, that investment can now deliver immediate and substantial tax benefits. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, has dramatically improved the landscape for

commercial real estate owners and buyers by expanding and enhancing depreciation rules. These changes not only reduce the after-tax cost of roof replacements but also create powerful sales opportunities for real estate professionals and contractors.

This article explains how depreciation works for commercial roof replacements, what's new under the OBBBA, and how to use these tax benefits as a compelling sales tool.

Depreciation Basics: How Roof Replacements Are Treated

Depreciation is the method by which business owners recover the cost of certain property over time. For tax purposes, most commercial building components—like roofs—are considered “improvements” to nonresidential real property. Historically, these improvements had to be depreciated over a long period (typically 39 years), which meant owners could only deduct a small portion of the cost each year.

However, the tax code provides two key ways to accelerate these deductions:

1. **Section 179 Expensing:** Allows businesses to immediately deduct the full cost of certain qualifying equipment, software and property purchased or financed during the tax year, rather than depreciating

them. It aims to incentivize capital improvements, up to an annual limit, with no or limited state tax implications.

2. **Bonus Depreciation (Section 168(k)):** Provides an additional first-year deduction for qualified property, often allowing for immediate expensing of the full cost, with some states decoupling from the federal tax treatment. Generally, this includes tangible property with a recovery period of 20 years or less (machinery, equipment, and furniture), computer software, and certain improvements to non-residential real property.

What's New Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act?

The OBBBA has made several game-changing updates that directly benefit commercial property owners considering roof replacements:

1. Permanent 100% Bonus Depreciation

- **What Changed:** The OBBBA reinstates and makes permanent the ability to deduct 100% of the cost of qualified property—including some commercial roof replacements—in the year the property is placed in service, if it is acquired after January 19, 2025.
- **What Qualifies:** Roof replacements may be eligible *if* they are considered “qualified improvement property” (QIP) or “qualified real property” and not considered structural. QIP includes improvements to the interior of nonresidential buildings that are placed into service after the building was originally placed in service and certain exterior improvements like roofs, HVAC, fire protection, and security systems *may* also qualify.
- **Why It Matters:** Instead of spreading deductions over 39 years, owners can now deduct the entire cost in the first year, dramatically

reducing taxable income and improving cash flow in the year the asset is placed in service.

2. Expanded Section 179 Expensing

- **What Changed:** The maximum Section 179 deduction is increased to \$2.5 million per year, with a phase-out threshold at \$4 million. These limits are indexed for inflation in future years.
- **What Qualifies:** In addition to QIP, Section 179 now explicitly covers roofs, HVAC, fire protection, and security systems installed on nonresidential real property.
- **Why It Matters:** More property owners—especially small and mid-sized businesses—can fully expense roof replacements, even if they do not qualify for bonus depreciation or prefer to use Section 179 for other planning reasons. If Section 179 deduction exceeds your taxable business income for the year the asset is placed into service, the excess amount can be carried forward indefinitely, but it is limited by taxable income in those future years.

3. New Expensing for Qualified Production Property

- **What Changed:** The OBBBA introduces a new 100% expensing provision for certain nonresidential real property used in manufacturing, production, or refining activities. This can include portions of a building (such as a roof) that are integral to a qualified production activity.
- **Why It Matters:** For owners or buyers in the manufacturing sector, this provision offers another pathway to immediate expensing, further enhancing the tax benefits of property upgrades.

Practical Example: The Power of Immediate Expensing

Suppose a business owner spends \$500,000 to replace the roof on a commercial warehouse in 2026. Under the old rules, the owner would have to depreciate the cost over 39 years—deducting just \$12,820 per year. Under the OBBBA, the entire \$500,000 may be deducted in the year the roof is placed in service, reducing taxable income by the full amount immediately (but not below zero if qualifying under Section 179).

If the owner is in a 30% combined federal and state tax bracket, this potentially can result in a \$150,000 tax savings in the first year—money that can be reinvested into the business or used to offset the cost of the roof.

Messaging for Sales Professionals: Turning Tax Law into a Sales Tool


Here are key talking points and strategies for real estate agents, contractors, and property advisors:

- **“Replace Now, Deduct Now”:** Emphasize that owners may write off the full cost of a new roof in the year it’s installed, rather than waiting nearly four decades for full recovery.
- **“Immediate Cash Flow Boost”:** Highlight how the tax savings can offset a significant portion of the project cost, making roof replacements more affordable than ever.
- **“Perfect for Buyers and Sellers”:** For buyers, a new roof can be a tax-smart investment. For sellers, upgrading the roof before sale can increase property value and provide a tax deduction.
- **“Section 179 and Bonus Depreciation—Double the Options”:** Explain that owners may qualify for the method that best fits their tax situation and scenario of the replacement, but they should consult with their tax advisor on the proper treatment.
- **“Manufacturers Get Even More”:** For properties used in production, the new expensing rules for qualified production property offer additional incentives.

Conclusion

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act has transformed the tax treatment of commercial roof replacements, making immediate expensing the new norm. For property owners, this means lower after-tax costs and improved cash flow. For sales professionals, it’s a powerful message that can help close deals and add value for clients.

Action Step: Encourage clients to consult with their tax advisors to ensure they maximize these benefits—and to act soon, as the timing of asset placement can affect eligibility for these enhanced deductions.

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute tax advice. Property owners should consult with a qualified tax professional to determine how these rules apply to their specific situation. 

References:

- Internal Revenue Code Sections 168(k), 179, and related Treasury Regulations
- P.L. 119-21 (H.R. 1, One Big Beautiful Bill Act), effective July 4, 2025 [5]
- IRS Publication 946 (2024) [3]
- MACRS Depreciation Guide (2025) [4]

Pete Antonopoulos is an Enrolled Agent and Tax Partner of Kuhn and Company, CPAs Holdings, PLLC. He has an extensive professional background, spanning over 20 years within both public accounting and industry. During his career, he has focused on managing the preparation and review of federal, state and international tax filings of both flowthrough and corporate entities; managing the preparation and review of individual federal and state tax filings; advised clients on complex entity structures; review and audit of quarterly and annual income tax provisions for multinational SEC registrants as well as privately-held entities; managed and reviewed the preparation and execution of various Accounting Method Changes. Antonopoulos is a licensed Enrolled Agent, holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree from DePaul University and has held multiple position with The Chicago Tax Club (currently President and Chair of the Federal Committee).

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Industry News

By CRCA Staff

CRCA Annual Awards Dinner



CRCA's annual awards dinner was held December 5th at the Burr Ridge Marriott. All attendees enjoyed the celebratory atmosphere and were in the "giving" spirit. The CRCA members donated over \$3,000 in gift cards which served the 17 Chicagoland suburbs Toys for Tots / Secret Santa programs. And what would an awards

dinner be without awards? Mark Graham, NRCA's VP of Technical Services received the Award of Excellence, Associate of the Year was awarded to Garza Roofing Supply, the Gold Medal Safety Award went to Olsson Roofing Company, the Patty Keating award recipient was Kim Good of SJ Mallein & Associates, the Wellness Award went to Richards Building Supply, and the Clyde Scott award recipient was George Patterson of Bennett & Brosseau Roofing Inc. Thank you for your dedicated service to the roofing industry!

CRCA Announces New Board of Directors

CRCA announced the 2026 Board of Officers and Directors. These include officers Ryan Petrick, President, Casey Fraher, 1st Vice President, Kevin Filotto, 2nd Vice President, Larry Marshall III, Treasurer, Mike Zimmermann, Secretary, and Mark Moran, Past President. Contractor Directors include Matthew Adler, Luke Duffy, Quinn Ferrall, Jennifer Grove, Dan Henshaw, Austin Keller, Brad Rabin, Mike Reynolds, and Ryan Young. Associate Directors include Dave Good, Monica Perez, and Jennifer Trapano.

Thank you to the outgoing members for their service. These include Dominic Dunlap and Ron Sweeny as Directors and Mitch Rabin as Immediate Past President. Thank you to all board members, past and present, for volunteering their time and talent to the CRCA and the roofing industry.

2026 CRCA Trade Show Recap

CRCA held the 42nd Trade Show & Seminars at Drury Lane Conference Center, January 14-16, 2026. CRCA would like to extend a big "shout-out" to attendees, exhibitors and speakers who participated in making this year's event successful! Over 125 manufacturers, service providers, and suppliers showcased innovative products and services at the event. Presenters shared information on Key Legal and Policy Issues, Air and Vapor Barriers, Technical Issues from a Field Perspective, Growing a Sales Team, Safety Leadership and Low Slope Technical. Attendees could earn continuing credits too! To view the presentations, visit <https://www.crca.org/Events/Trade-Show/CRCA-Trade-Show-Presentations>.

A new addition this year . . . Bolingbrook High School students were invited to walk the show. They visited exhibitors and learned about many facets of the roofing business and walked away with insight about how many career opportunities there are within one industry! Special recognition to the trade show committee members - David Boling, Chris Demro, Mark Duffy, Tom Gadzikiweicz, Dave Good, Kim Good, Mike Lowery, Meredith Maran-Pruim, Anne Prusak, Rod Petrick, Jeff Stralka and Co-Chairs, Matthew Adler, and Greg Dedic. Mark your calendars for next year's show January 20-22, 2027. Watch CRCA.org for more information.

CRCA CWIR Networking Event a Success!



CRCA Photo: Monica Perez, Valeria Wright (Keynote) and Jennifer Grove

CRCA's CWIR hosted a "Women Raising the Roofs" event on March 5, 2026. It was an all-day event designed to educate, connect, and empower women across the roofing industry. This dynamic, full-day event featured a keynote breakfast, hands-on demonstrations, a thought-provoking panel discussion, and networking opportunities with industry peers and leaders. Chicago's fellow women in roofing enjoyed a day focused on professional growth, relationship building, and inspiration. Watch for more about CRCA's CWIR and other upcoming events at CRCA.org/Events.

UPCOMING CRCA EVENTS:

2026 CRCA Chicago Wolves Outing!

Bring family and friends to watch the Chicago Wolves take on their archrival, Rockford IceHogs at this CRCA Event, April 12. Doors open at 2 pm, puck drop at 3 pm. Registration includes event ticket, food, drink, and a Chicago Wolves winter hat. To register, go to CRCA.org/Events.

CRCA SCHOLARSHIPS!

Since 2000, CRCA has awarded over \$700k in scholarships to graduating high school students! Two types of CRCA scholarships are open to 2026 graduating high school seniors:

- **CRCA Members Only Scholarship:** Offered to graduating high school students who are dependents of employees of CRCA member companies. For more information and to apply: <https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/crca-members>.

- **CRCA Foundation Scholarship:** Offered to graduating high school students with an ACT composite score of 28 or greater (or SAT composite score of 1300 or greater). For more information and to apply: <https://scholarshipamerica.org/scholarship/crca-foundation>.

The deadline to apply for both types is 3 pm, March 13, 2026. To learn more, visit www.crca.org/CRCA-Foundation/CRCA-Scholarship.

CRCA Member News

QXO to Acquire Kodiak

In early February, the acquisition of Kodiak Building Partners by CRCA Associate Member QXO for \$2.25 Billion in cash and stock was announced. Kodiak, a national building product distributor, has 110 locations in 26 states, from coast to coast. Though QXO and Kodiak operate in the same sector, they distribute different products.

The acquisition moves QXO beyond roofing and waterproofing into lumber, trusses, gypsum, and broader construction supplies—categories central to large homebuilders and regional contractors. It is estimated to triple QXO's building products' distribution footprint, placing them in nearly every major building products category.

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Sheet Metal Supply Receives Award



CRCA Associate Member Sheet Metal Supply (SMS), a national metal fabricator for the construction industry, announced

it was the unanimous winner of the 2025 Grayslake Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Award at the recent installation and awards ceremony. This annual award is given in recognition of economic development promotion.

“When we found our new industrial home in Grayslake in 2020, we realized we had come across not just a hidden gem of a property, but a hidden gem of a community as well,” says Ben Kweton, president of Sheet Metal Supply. “Not only were we able to partner with the village to incentivize our move in exchange for a geometric increase in sales tax revenues, but we’ve made a commitment to utilize local vendors and restaurants and help support the local community.”



SMS Photo: From left to right, Phoebe McCorkindale, Ben Kweton and Phil Kweton of Sheet Metal Supply, along with Grayslake Trustee Kevin Waldenstrom.

Malarkey Roofing Products Announces New President

CRCA Associate Member Malarkey Roofing Products, part of the Amrize family of brands, announced the appointment of Charles Collins as Malarkey’s president. Malarkey serves as the cornerstone residential roofing line within Amrize’s building envelope business. Collins, a seasoned roofing industry executive, succeeds Dale Rushing, who has been appointed Senior Vice President of Operations for Amrize Building Envelope. “I’m thrilled to welcome Charles to the team and look forward to the positive impact his leadership will have on Malarkey’s

continued success,” said Jake Gosa, President of Amrize Building Envelope. “And, with Dale in his new role, we’re further reinforcing our commitment to operational excellence across our portfolio.”

Waukegan Roofing Announces New President



CRCA Contractor Member Waukegan Roofing announced the naming of Phil Diederich as president earlier this year. His 25+ years of industry experience also includes his past role on the CRCA Board of Directors, CRCA Emerging Leaders Committee and is also a graduate of the NRCA Future Executive Institute. His

predecessor, Bruce Diederich, served as president of Waukegan Roofing for 28 years and on the CRCA Board as Director, Secretary, Vice President, President and Chair of the Advancement and Research Fund. Thanks for your service, Bruce and congrats Phil!

CRCA Members Make Safety a Priority

Nicole Waters, from Leading Edge Safety, came out to host a free hands-on training at Associate CRCA Member Garza Supply on March 3rd. Safety procedures covered mobile carts, harnesses, and rescue winches. Thanks to everyone who attended and made this session such a success! Most importantly, attendees took the time to further educate themselves and their employees on the very important topic of safety!



Photo courtesy of Garza Supply

CRCA Awards Past Presidents

CRCA recognize the great amount of dedication, personal time and leadership CRCA Presidents and others have given to the organization and the industry. CRCA Past Presidents Bill O'Brien Sr. and Bruce Diederich were awarded the CRCA Past President Honor Pin.



Bill O'Brien Sr. (1999-2000) with CRCA President Ryan Petrick



CRCA Executive Director Troy Wormley with Bruce Diederich (2011-2012)

Other Industry News

CRCA To Join NRCA in DC

Join fellow roofing professionals on Capitol Hill as we advocate for our industry at the 2026 Roofing Day in DC, April 14-15 in a legislative event organized by the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA). Congress must see and hear from you to understand

the critical issues we face. Together, we can make a difference! To learn more, visit CRCA.org/Events.

CRCA Members Complete NRCA Leadership Training

NRCA's Future Executives Institute (FEI) is a three-year program, partnered with Northwestern's Kellogg Business School, focused on roofing and business training. Four students that are CRCA members were recognized at the January IRE in Las Vegas as having completed the training. These include Phillip Cooper (Total Roofing and Construction), Zachary Brosseau (Bennett & Brosseau Roofing), Brad Rabin (A1 Roofing), and TJ Taylor (DCG Roofing). CRCA congratulates these four emerging leaders for investing in our industry! 



NRCA Photo: Phillip Cooper, TJ Taylor, Brad Rabin, and Zachary Brosseau



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CRCA Contractor Members

The Contractor Members of the Chicago Roofing Contractor Association install all types of roofs, including reflective single ply, modified bitumen, built up, gravel, reflective coatings, shingle, shake, slate and tile, vegetative garden or photovoltaic coverings. From formation following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, CRCA Members have moved with the times and technology, yet continue to maintain some of the same goals set forth over 140 years ago. To find a CRCA Professional Contractor, visit www.CRCA.org.

A-1 Roofing Co.(847) 952-3600	E. Ariel Roofing Solutions LLC(224) 357-8745	Jones & Cleary Roofing /
A.P.E.K. INCORPORATED(815) 774-0900	Elens & Maichin Roofing &	Sheet Metal Co., Inc.(773) 288-6464 x23
A&E Roofing & Siding(630) 264-1533	Sheet Metal, Inc.(815) 727-2689	JSQ Roofing Solutions(708) 408-3479
A+ Roofing Co., Inc.(630) 227-1111	F & G Roofing Company, LLC(708) 597-5338	KBC Exteriors LLC(708) 497-3737
Active Roofing LLC(773) 238-0338	Feze Roofing, Inc.(630) 530-5944	Knickerbocker Roofing &
Adams Roofing Professionals, Inc.(847) 364-7663	Filotto Roofing, Inc.(815) 740-5461	Paving Co., Inc.(708) 339-7260
Adler Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc.(815) 773-1200	First Home Improvement Inc.	Korellis(219) 844-1400
Advanced Roofing & Woodworking Inc.(630) 231-7663	d/b/a: 1st Home Improvement(847) 496-5530	Kreiling Roofing(309) 673-3649
Advocate Construction, Inc.(630) 290-3761	Foremost Improvements Inc.(847) 376-8617	L. Marshall Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.(847) 724-5400
Aegis Construction Group, Inc.(630) 709-8121	Four Elements Restoration(866) 848-9337	Langlois Roofing, Inc.(815) 933-8040
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All American Exterior Solutions(847) 438-4131	GC Roofing LLC(773) 617-8528	Lindholm Roofing(773) 283-7675
All Sealants, Inc.(708) 720-0777	Global Exterior Experts(877) 455-4562	Local Roofing Co., Inc.(847) 244-0500
Allendorfer Roofing Co., Ltd.(773) 463-7808	Gluth Brothers Roofing Co.(219) 844-5536	M. Cannon Roofing Company, LLC(847) 519-0698
Anchor Point Roofing(312) 363-9384	Great Lakes Roofing(219) 852-9323	M. W. Powell Company(773) 247-7438
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Anthony Roofing Tecta America LLC(630) 898-4444	Happy Roofing(630) 234-8331	Malcor Roofing of Illinois, Inc.(630) 896-6479
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BP Roofing Solutions, LLC(815) 885-8326	Huuso(630) 200-1419	Insulating Company(815) 963-8458
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Complete Building Maintenance Co.(630) 932-7890		
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Windows, Inc.(847) 221-5600		
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Crowther Roofing &		
Sheet Metal & HVAC, Inc.(815) 726-2400		
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Culture Construction And Consulting LLC(234) 285-8873		
Custom Roofing Contracting LTD(847) 639-8400		
Dardon Construction Inc.(866) 327-3661		
DCG Roofing Solutions Inc.(847) 296-6611		
Deady Roofing & Construction, Inc.(708) 672-0874		
Distinctive Roofing, Inc.(815) 986-0831		
Domain Corporation(773) 628-0001		
DRC Roofing & Construction(630) 412-1188		
Driscoll Renovations, Inc.(630) 628-7800		
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Nombach Roofing & Tuckpointing(708) 388-1090	Ridgeworth Roofing Co., Inc.(708) 598-0039	TAR Roofing Inc.(630) 422-1589
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Pine Roofing Company(773) 539-9595	Sager Sealant Corporation(708) 354-9300	Total Roofing & Construction(708) 201-7550
Pine Waterproofing & Sealants(847) 678-5700	Seal Tight Exteriors, Inc.(708) 755-3555	Total Systems Roofing Inc.(815) 455-7663
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Pro-Tech Roofing, Inc.(847) 759-1970	Solaris Roofing Solutions, Inc.(630) 639-5400	W.B.R. Roofing Company, Inc.(847) 487-8787
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The Associate Members of the Chicago Roofing Contractors Association are a vital part of the association and actively support the activities. Besides their generosity, they are represented on the CRCA Board of Directors, Co-Chair the Membership and Trade Show Committees and serve on the Health & Safety, Contracts & Insurance, Industry Affairs, Program and Scholarship Committees.

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SRI Consultants Inc.....	(608) 831-5333
STR Building Resources LLC.....	(847) 652-6115
YA Engineering Services.....	(312) 919-8279

Vacuuming

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* Upgraded CRCA Members. To learn more, visit CRCA.org/Upgraded-Members

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