

TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

REPAIRING DAMAGE/DEFECTS IN A 2-HOUR AREA SEPARATION WALL SYSTEM

The 2 ½ hour fire rated ME Area Separation Firewall System was released to the industry in March 2022 as a way to isolate sound and protect from fire two (2) separate living units in townhomes, twin homes, duplexes, condominiums and apartments. At times during the installation of the ME ASF system, mistakes are made or damage occurs to this assembly, and for that reason American Gypsum performed a full scale fire test per ASTM E119, with repairs to defects in this wall system. (Report - WFCi 21080)

Below is one of the defects that was built into American Gypsum's ME Area Separation Firewall System (UL design V344), and if needed how to successfully repair it in the field to ensure that the 2 ½ hour fire rating is preserved.

DAMAGE OR DEFECT:	MISSING/DAMAGED H-STUDS OR C-RUNNER TRACK
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ISSUE: During installation of the ME Area Separation Firewall System the vertical H-Studs and/or the C-Runner track can be damaged, or gaps between framing members can mistakenly be built into the wall (up to 2 ½" maximum). Either of these defects voids the intended 2 ½ hour fire rating.

- REPAIR:**
- Fill the damaged area or the gap/hole with 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk
 - Center over the fire caulking, a piece of metal flat strap – minimum 6" in width by 18" long, 25 gauge.
 - Secure metal flat strap to the H-Stud or C-Runner Track with #8, 3/4" panhead screws, spaced a maximum of 6" o/c.
 - Apply fire caulk around the perimeter of the metal flat strap.
 - Duplicate the metal flat strap patch on opposite side of wall.

