

# TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

## REPAIRING DAMAGE/DEFECTS IN THE 2 ½ HOUR ME AREA SEPARATION FIREWALL SYSTEM

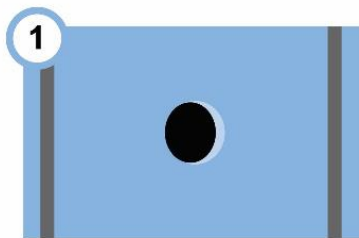
The 2 ½ hour fire rated ME Area Separation Firewall System was released to the industry in March 2022 as a way to isolate sound and protect from fire two (2) separate living units in townhomes, twin homes, duplexes, condominiums and apartments. At times during the installation of the ME ASF system, mistakes 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.

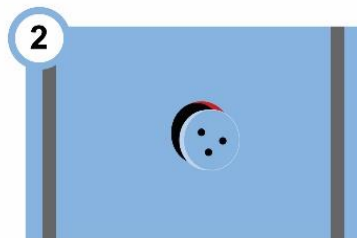
<b>DAMAGE OR DEFECT:</b>	<b>UP TO 6" PENETRATION THROUGH 1/2" M-BLOC® EKCEL® TYPE X with MOLD &amp; MOISTURE RESISTANCE</b>
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**ISSUE:** There are times when large penetrations occur through all four (4) layers of the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard with Mold & Moisture Resistance, which voids the 2 ½ hour fire rating.

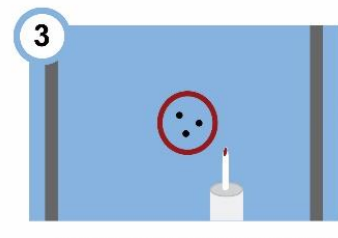
- REPAIR:**
- ❑ Cut four (4) pieces of the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard about the same size of the penetration through ME ASF (maximum of 1/4" less than the full diameter of penetration).
  - ❑ Fasten the four (4) pieces or plugs of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard together with three (3) 1-1/2" Type G laminating screws – from each direction or side.
  - ❑ Coat inside of the penetration with 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk and place the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X plug in the penetration and then fire caulk around it's perimeter.
  - ❑ Center a piece of 6" wide metal flat strap (25 gauge minimum) horizontally over repaired penetration, and secured to vertical H-Studs on each side with #8, 3/4" panhead screws. Apply 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk along the top and bottom edges of the metal flat strap.
  - ❑ Center a minimum 12" x 12" piece of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X panel over the wallboard plugs, and secure with 1-1/2" Type G laminating screws in each corner. Once in place, apply fire caulking around the perimeter of this drywall patch.
  - ❑ Duplicate 6" steel flat strap and drywall patch on opposite side of the wall.



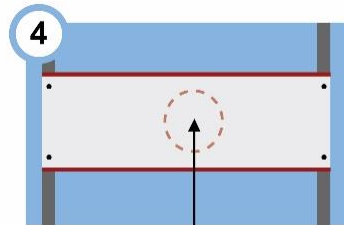
1  
Up to a 6" penetration through the ME Area Separation Firewall System



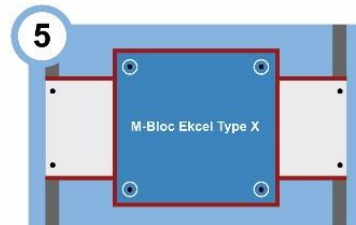
2  
Insert drywall plug into the penetration of the ME ASF system



3  
Apply 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25WB+ fire caulk to the perimeter of the drywall plug



4  
6" wide metal flat strap is centered over repaired area and secured with #8, 3/4" panhead screws, applying 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk along the top and bottom edges of metal flat strap



5  
Center a min. 12" x 12" piece of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard and secure with 1-1/2" Type G laminating screws in each corner. Once in place, fire caulk around the perimeter (Repeat all the steps on opposite side of the wall)

### THE PRODUCTS YOU NEED FROM THOSE YOU TRUST

FireBloc® | M-Bloc® | LightRoc® | M-Bloc® Ekcel® Type X

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